'Nothing is impossible'

TO MY 'BOSSES':
"This is not my Sona. This is the Sona of the Filipino nation. You are the wellspring of change. It is possible. It's a great time to be Filipino."

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FE

Sona P-Noy's narration of changes

By Norman Bordadora and Christine O. Avendaño

THE PHILIPPINES has achieved change, and the Filipinos themselves have made it happen.

President Aquino faced a joint session of Congress yesterday to deliver his third State of the Nation Address (Sona). He did not claim credit for the improvements in national life in the past year. All credit he gave to the Filipinos. He thanked them for the achievements.

He said that in the 25 months that he has been President, he learned that "nothing is impossible because if the Filipino people see that they are the only Bosses of their government, they will carry they will guide you, they themselves will lead you to meaningful change."

"Nothing is impossible to a united nation," Mr. Aquino said. "It was change we dreamed of, and change we achieved."

Toward the end of his one-hour-and-a-half-long speech, he said: "Isn't it a great time to be Filipino?"

And the benefits of change, he said, are now per for the course. Roads are straight and level, and properly paved, relief goods are ready even before a storm arrives, rescue services are always on standby, and people are no longer left to fend for themselves, save only blare from police cars, ambulances, and fire trucks—not from the vehicles of government officials.

"Reforms were established as we cut wasteful spending, held offenders accountable for their actions, and showed the world that the Philippines is now open for business under new management," the President said.

He reported eight credit rating upgrades, 44 stock market record highs, and a first-quarter 2012 gross domestic product growth rate of 6.4 percent, "much higher than projected, the highest growth in the Southeast Asian region, and second only to China in the whole of Asia."

On his social, health, educa-

NOTHING A6

House 'Great Wall' shrine to historic impeachment

By Cathy C. Yumaan and Leila B. Salaverria

CALL IT "The Great Wall of [illegible]."

A self-congratulatory mural celebrating the victory of prosecutors who worked to convict then Chief Justice Renato Corona greets passersby at the south wing of the House of Representatives.

The "shrine" to the prosecution's success in unseating Corona—unveiled a few hours before President Aquino's State of the Nation Address (Sona)—is not likely to be missed.

Right smack at the center are grand close-ups of Speaker Feliciano Belmonte Jr., House lead prosecutor Iloilo Rep. Neptali Tupas Jr. and Davao Marte Rep. Rodolfo Fariñas, whose "pakurot" (lame excuses) closing argument against Coro-

HOUSE A7

'Philippines is no longer a joke'

By Gil C. Cabacungan

THE TIME has come for the country to implement high-profile projects, invite more tourists, and spend more for education and healthcare to gather the robust investors' confidence in the economy into gains for his "bosses," President Aquino said yesterday.

"What was once the sick man of Asia now brims with vitality. Once, we were the debtors; now, we are the creditors, closely no laughing matter. Until recently, we had to beg for investments; now, investors flock to us," the President said in his third State of the Nation Address (Sona).

He cited testimonies from foreign investors and an analyst saying that "the Philippines is no longer a joke."

"I only wish that the optimism of foreign media would be shared by their local counterparts more often," the President said.

"When we secured our first positive credit rating action,

THE PHILIPPINES A9

Address gets thumbs up from business

By Doris Dumlao and Riza T. Olchondra

AN EXECUTIVE of one of the biggest banks in the country said President Aquino's affirmation of good governance while implementing reforms would make economic growth more "inclusive" so it would bring down unemployment and poverty levels.

Raul Joseph Garcia, a senior vice president at The Bank of the Philippine Islands and head of Odyssey Funds, said the message

ADDRESS A6

A STONE'S THROW AWAY

6,000 cops block 5,000 protesters hurling stones

By Julie M. Aurelio, Nancy C. Carvajal and Inquirer bureaus

IT WAS a familiar sight this time of year: Students and farmers burning effigies of President Aquino and Uncle Sam. But they were stopped by police from getting close to the Batasang Pambansa complex to denounce the government's alleged failure to improve the plight of workers, triggering a brief melee that left seven injured.

Fire trucks, road barricades and a 6,000-strong police force blocked the protesters led by the leftist group Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (Bayan) on Commonwealth Avenue in front of Ever Gotesco mall about 2 kilometers from the Congress building, where the President delivered his annual State of the Nation Address (Sona).

A brief scuffle ensued when a group led by the militant League of Filipino Students attempted to breach the police line after the effigies were burned.

Bayan said 98 protesters, mostly students, were hurt as stones flew or misfortunes. Bayan said 13 of those injured required treatment at East Avenue Medical Center. The Philippine National Red Cross reported 10 injuries.

Chief Supt. Mario de la Vega

6,000 COPS A6

When politics, fashion meet on red carpet

By Alex T. Vergara and Cheche V. Maral

THEY wore their losses on their sleeves and carried their politics on their backs, their bodices and their shirts.

Politics and fashion converged on the red carpet at yesterday's State of the Nation Address (Sona) and the opening of the joint session of the 15th Congress.

The annual fashion event at the Batasang Pambansa complex became more of a passion show as guests, government officials and lawmakers made sure that their stylish togs advanced their personal causes and advocacies as well.

Sen. Loren Legarda, who confessed to the Inquirer last week that she was torn among several choices for her Sona frock, decided on a Paul Cabral jusi shoss made of recycled fabric.

"I want to prove that old, recycled and even something that's borrowed can look good," said Legarda, who recently put up the country's first permanent textile gallery in the National Museum.

Former Rep. Rita Horatio-Barsaquel combined materials from several geographical and sometimes opposing political locales in her yellow Filipiniana dress made of *abel Iloko* from up north with a pair of detachable terno sleeves made of Tinalak material from the south made by local artisans.

"The use of two fabrics symbol-

WHEN POLITICS A9

One Night With Taiwan's King of Laughter Jacky Wu

Resorts World Manila, the foremost venue for internationally-acclaimed entertainment presents Taiwan's renowned talk show host, singer, and actor Jacky Wu for a one-night only engagement at the Newport Performing Arts Theater Saturday, July 28, 2012, 8PM.

Let Jacky give you a taste of his quick-witted humor and gift of song, as the 2009 Golden Bell Awardee charms audiences anew with his inimitable brand of comedy.

Catch this laugh-out-loud event and experience another world-class show at the most innovative performing arts theater in the country. Jacky Wu Live in Concert tickets are available at the Resorts World Manila Box Office and all TicketWorld outlets. For more information, visit www.rwmanila.com or call the Tourist/Visitor Hotline at (632) 836-6333.

WEATHER FORECAST

SUNDAY: Cool with few cloudy skies with isolated rain showers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will experience partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated rainshower or thunderstorm.

Second FRONTPAGE

6/23
2D 23 12
3D 26 27
4D 28 4

SUERTRES
2D 1 3 2
3D 5 1 4
4D 1 6 6

FOUR DIGIT
4 8 0 4

MEGALOTTO 6/45
7 12 23 27 28 34
P8,216,551.80

6/55 GRAND LOTTO
12 20 34 35 52 54
P44,567,402.40

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China paper to Beijing: Stop aiding PH

By Jerry E. Esplanada

ONE OF China's top newspapers has urged Beijing to stop giving development aid to the Philippines, which it says "does not deserve too much attention from China."

The Global Times, in an editorial on July 19, said "there is no need to dole out generous aid" to the Philippines. "The cooperative projects should be an opportunity for China to extend its advantage," the paper published by the Communist Party mouthpiece, the People's Daily, said.

"Cooperation with the Philippines can still continue only if it benefits China," the paper said. "But countries as fickle as the Philippines cannot become our strategic partner in a short period of time."

Citing a Philippine data paper briefed with a $112-million loan from China and inaugurated recently by President Aquino, it said: "The water supply project contract was signed in 2010."

"If it were negotiated today, given the current situation surrounding Huangyan Island [Panatag or Scarborough Shoal in the West Philippine or South China Sea], the deal would likely not go through," the paper said.

According to the Global Times, when President Aquino "attended the ceremony where he expressed his gratitude to China [for funding a water project in Manila], the news sparked strong opposition back in China."

The paper explained: "Some thought it was a few dissidents in Manila and questioned the logic behind it. The water supply project was built through the preferential buyer's credit of the China Export-Import Bank. The Philippines borrowed from China in purchase construction products from a Chinese company, China International Water and Electric Corp. The $112 million is underwritten by the Philippine government."

Suffer consequences

The Global Times wrote that its aim to punish the Philippines for daring to contest the ownership of Panatag Shoal. "Manila provoked the conflict and also suffered the consequences," the paper said.

It claimed: "The Philippines grabbed a few islands in the South China Sea during the years when China's naval power was weakest. It was a golden time for China. With its rising influence and clear-cut its side, China can generally be sure of reaching the South China Sea issue in its own pace despite discrepancies in the US."

Earlier, the Global Times criticized the Philippines and Vietnam for their "attempt to grab islands and waters in the South China Sea, which don't belong to them, by riding the back of the tiger," an apparent reference to the United States.

In a report published on July 16, the paper said Manila and distant "hope to get massive military assistance from the US, which the US can't afford to provide."

The report, titled "China's top highlights weak points of US return to Asia," waved that US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton "made a trip exploiting China severely."

"From Japan to Mongolia then to Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia, Clinton acutely focused on three things: Bashing Japan, Vietnam and the Philippines to dispute with China over maritime territorial sovereignty, hamstring China's economic influence in Asia by enhancing trade and economic ties with Southeast Asian countries, and promoting concepts of democracy and human rights as the core of US Asian strategy while attacking China's development model," the report said.

It added: "The Obama administration's strategy covers political and military fields, as well as trade and economy. But the strategy is gradually losing its edge."

CHR to probe mass grave of suspected communist purge victims

THE COMMISSION on Human Rights (CHR) said Monday it would investigate a report by the military that it had exhumed a mass grave containing some 40 suspected victims of a communist rebel purge in the 1980s.

CHR Chair Loretta Ann Rosales said her office would look into the mass grave, but it was too early to tell if the remains found in Quezon province were victims of a rebel purge.

Soldiers and policemen on Sunday unearthed the skeletal remains of people believed slain by the New People's Army (NPA), the armed wing of the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP), as suspected military spies in the 1980s, Army spokesperson Maj. Harold Cabunoc said.

Lt.Col. Generoso Bolina, spokesperson of the Southern Luzon Command, said farmers found the grave while plowing a windfield on a hilly portion of Sitio Inayawan, Barangay Pagsangahan, in San Francisco town on Saturday.

Policemen, soldiers and villagers have dug up 40 skulls, Bolina said.

Police investigator Joel Ram Ramos and Rommel Mallorca and another farmer gave the information to the barangay captain who informed it to the police and soldiers in the area, Senen said.

Samples of the skeletal remains were collected for physical examination at the Quezon police provincial crime laboratory at Camp Nakar in Lucena City, said Bolina.

Col. Edmardo Año, commander of the Army's 201st Infantry Brigade operating in Quezon, said information gathered from a former rebel revealed that the NPA then operating in San Francisco had killed about 50 communist guerrilla and civilians during "Operation Missing Link," which the CPP initiated in Southern Tagalog.

Quoting the rebel informant, Año said the victims included seven NPA rebels—one pregnant, three teenagers and three regular guerrillas. The rest were civilians.

Año called on residents of San Francisco and neighboring towns with missing relatives to coordinate with local police to identify the skeletal remains.

Rosales urged caution before drawing any conclusions. "We will investigate, but let's not make any conclusions yet on who did it," she said in a telephone interview.

CPP and NPA leaders have acknowledged that some rebel commanders killed 600 to 900 suspected spies and government informers in Mindanao more than two decades ago.

More than 60 other suspected spies were killed in Quezon and nothing arose southeast of Manila, according to people who survived the purge.

The guerrilla front later acknowledged the killings in among the most horrible blunders of the insurgency which has raged on for 43 years.

Cristina Palabay, spokesperson for the human rights group Karapatan, challenged the military to prove its allegation that the mass graves held victims of the NPA.

The said similar discoveries in the past had been used by the military as reasons to arrest activists allegedly linked to the mass killings.

AP and Delfin T. Mallari Jr., Inquirer Southern Luzon

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Term limits won't be messed with–JPE

By Dindan V. Bajenting

SENATE President Juan Ponce Enrile yesterday opened the upper chamber's third regular session in the 15th Congress, and dismissed the door-to-door intentions by elected officials as the reasoned date to amend the Constitution.

In a speech, Enrile said Charter change could become a matter issue in the chamber but maintained that any amendments to the Constitution would be limited to its economic provisions.

"Let me be very clear about this–we will agree to make a move to amend the Constitution but only with respect to the economic provisions of the present Charter," he said.

"Speaker Feliciano Belmonte and I do not seek to revise the Constitution. Rather we seek to amend only certain economic provisions so that there will be more flexibility in the ownership of certain industries, particularly those involving the exploration, development and utilization of our natural resources."

The senator however, said he would not consider other provisions of the Constitution, such as one setting the term limits of government officials.

"It will not happen because the two houses agreed and we will pass the resolution. You will not schedule we are going to tinker with other provisions of the Constitution," he said.

Enrile said only he and Belmonte were pushing for amendments. He said he had not discussed the matter with his Senate colleagues.

"I have to discuss it with them. I cannot assume their concurrence but I will explain the thrust of our proposal," he told reporters.

Enrile in his speech laid down the Senate's legislative agenda, one focused on helping spur the economy by improving the business climate.

"The improvement of the economy is a vital government concern. But our way of allowing business to prosper must be guided, not only by a sense of free enterprise, but also by the spirit of stewardship," he said.

"Your Senate, as part of this government, wishes to guarantee an economic climate that encourages the creation of goods and services in a playing field that is intentionally made fair by all," he said.

Enrile said the upper chamber would prioritize measures early in the one-meeting to "prohibit or discourage the formation of anticompetitive mergers and anticompetitive conduct."

"In order to protect our people, we must ensure that prices are dictated by the market and not fixed as a result of any cooperation(s) carried over the quantity of products produced," he said.

Republic of the Philippines
Manila International Airport Authority
Ninoy Aquino International Airport, Metro Manila

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TO ALL DOMESTIC PASSENGERS DEPARTING FROM MANILA FROM AUGUST 1, 2012 ONWARDS

1. The Domestic Passenger Service Charge (DPSC) commonly known as "**AIRPORT TERMINAL FEE**" in the amount of TWO HUNDRED PESOS (Php 200.00) which passengers pay at designated counters in the NAIA shall now be paid upon purchase of airline tickets through internet booking, airline ticket offices and ticketing or travel agents.

This will apply to all tickets issued or re-issued **on or after August 1, 2012.**

2. Holders of airline tickets **issued before August 1, 2012** will still pay the Php 200.00 at designated terminal fee counters as of that date.

3. All domestic passengers are advised to **bring with them a printed copy of the airline ticket, electronic ticket or itinerary receipt, as applicable.** This is to avoid inconvenience during the check-in process.

4. The Php 200.00 is inclusive of VAT. No other fees in connection with the DPSC shall be charged to the passenger.

5. For unused tickets, the DPSC of Php 200.00 is refundable within one (1) year from ticket issuance. The concerned air carrier will process the refund for the DPSC in accordance with its refund policies and procedures.

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Globe Asiatique hits back at Pag-Ibig

REALTY firm Globe Asiatique, which allegedly obtained over P6.85 billion worth of housing loan from the government through "ghost borrowers," yesterday insisted that the Home Development Mutual Fund (HDMF), popularly known as Pag-Ibig Fund, had ordered their agreement on "replacement buyers."

CEOng Kalaw-Lim of Makati City Regional Trial Court, Globe Asiatique finally said it was entitled to "specific performance and damages" after Pag-Ibig Fund reversed its buyer clearances of agreement and funding commitment agreements (FCAs).

In a press statement, Globe Asiatique said the agreements allowed it to sell properties to other buyers if the original buyers failed to pay their amortization on time or otherwise failed to be contracts.

"The right to replace defaulting buyers is included in the five-year buyback guarantee of Globe Asiatique as reserved by Pag-Ibig to the customers that is solely prepared," the statement said.

It said the arrangement was an alternative to the authority given to Globe Asiatique to settle the unpaid loans of its delinquent clients to Pag-Ibig Fund, to "exercise the automatic offset" feature of the organization's loan with the institution, owners and other members of Globe Asiatique, which are still in the possession" of Pag-Ibig.

Globe Asiatique said the Makati RTC's Jan. 30 resolution dismissed the allegations of Pag-Ibig Fund that it had violated the provisions of the FCAs when they easily from approved the loan applications with Pag-Ibig Fund of buyer borrowers.

"Pag-Ibig Fund should not be allowed to escape liability with impunity by simply alleging that the defaulting buyers/borrowers are fictitious and spurious because in the first place (1) fraud-avoidance and undisputed evidence approved all the Pag-Ibig Fund membership and loan applications," the Makati RTC said in its ruling. Marlon Ramos

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Winds of change: 'Island of unity in a sea of diversity'

By Michael Lim Ubac
and Cathy C. Yamsuan

QUEZON at the State of the Nation Address (SONA) told the business that they could feel the winds of change sweeping the country with Filipinos and lawmakers alike willing to listen to the President's speech.

There may be divided by one Beijing ambitions but for one fleeting afternoon, at least, the country's political leaders came together under one roof and gave the impression of "national unity," lawmakers yesterday said as they listened to President Aquino's State of the Nation Address (SONA).

"I think this our democracy continues critical thinking and debate. That makes it healthy. But today is a day for all to be united in the face of bigger and real adversaries, local and foreign," said Muntinlupa Rep. Rozanno Quintito.

Senate Minority Leader Alan Peter Cayetano explained that the State "symbolizes an island of unity in a sea of diversity." He said the Sona was a coming together of leaders divided by geography, creed, ideology and political persuasions.

"We are brought together by love for God, country and people, listening to the highest elected official of the land to try to find common objectives and directions," Cayetano said.

Sen. Francis Escudero said: "At least (the country is united) for one afternoon."

Rep. Juan Edgardo Angara preferred to use the phrase "unity in diversity."

"Despite divergent views, the presence of all the nation's leaders under one roof showcases Philippine democracy which some consider messy but, in the words of Winston Churchill, a better than all other alternatives," Angara said.

Loudest applause

The loudest hoots and applause erupted when Mr. Aquino expressed his support for "responsible parenthood," which many took to refer to the controversial reproductive health bill.

Sen. Vic Ciprianos, principal sponsor of the contentious measure, had to turn her seated chair and check the noise happening behind her at the session hall, while several lawmakers stood to applaud Mr. Aquino's statement.

People in nearly all the galleries—save for the VIP section reserved for foreign dignitaries—cheered, stamped their feet and some "woos boos" to support the President.

Mr. Aquino paused and smiled.

JPE unperturbed

Senate Majority Leader Vicente C. Sotto, a staunch adversary of the RH measure, looked amused, smiled and eventually let out a loud guffaw as he clapped his hands at what was taking place.

Despite the din, Senate President Juan Ponce Enrile hardly looked up from what he was reading as he sat on a chair above his deputies.

Other well-applauded policy statements of Mr. Aquino included:

• His insistence that the government stabilize efforts in its ease on out with China following its provocative moves in the West Philippine Sea;

• Mr. Aquino's firm stand of "no forgive and forget" in the case of the "30 years that were taken from us" referring to the Arroyo administration and the Maguindanao massacre; and

• His persistent vow to go after government and their politician financiers.

Too long

Many spectators found the speech long by.

Lasting almost one and a half hours, it seemingly put many lawmakers and guests to sleep. Former President Joseph Estrada dozed but it is still a years to word the end of the speech.

Sen. Ferdinand Marcos Jr., seated by the side of Estrada, said he was bored enough not to hide his boredom, especially since the Sona began with a reference to the oppression the Aquino family suffered during martial law, which his father—the late dictator Ferdinand Sr.—declared in 1972.

Police inroads

Kia resident, Davao Norte Rep. Antolin Oaminal, looked politely as the giant screens in front of her throughout the speech.

It was not clear if Sen. Lito Lapid, an advocate of the national language, appreciated the President's efforts to speak in Filipino.

Noticeable though was how Mr. Aquino maintained as he read statistics and other numbers in Filipino—such as the increased number of expertise mothers receiving prenatal care. He soon shifted to English.

Cheers on the third floor gallery—were initiated by the overseer chopping of hidden individuals at the most inopportune moments. A prompted ovation that the chappers had been planned inside the session hall to make sure the President's speech was well applauded.

Joel Villanueva, director general of the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority, mouthed a very discernible "thank you" to the President after we was announced for the good performance of he agency.

Traditionally the Sona is the most well-attended political event of the year. Also seen in the VIP galleries were Vice President Jejomar Binay and Senate President Juan Ponce Enrile, Speaker Feliciano Belmonte, former Speaker Jose de Venecia and Cabinet secretaries.

Other guests included Ombudsman Conchita Carpio Morales and Manila Mayor Alfredo Lim, who kept away from the VIP gallery, where Estrada was. Lim is running for reelection against Estrada, former senators present were Richerson Alvarez, Francisco Tatad, Nikki Coseteng and Ramon Magsaysay Jr.

Aquino skiers

Congressmen queued up to shake the hand of Commission on Elections Chair Sixto Brillantes, who was seated in the bulwark row of the VIP gallery.

Brillantes' secretary, presidential adviser Ronald Llamas, walked all the way down to the session floor to give damned girlfriend and former Akbayan Rep. Risa Hontiveros-Baraquel a hug on the schools.

The Aquino skiers—Bailey, Pinky, Viel and Kris—entered 40 minutes before the Sona was to start. The three elder sisters arrived with their husbands. Kris arrived separately by television host Boy Abunda.

An obviously sun-struck Rosemarie Arroyo was seated two rows back but had her photo taken right behind Kris before making her exit.

Former President Gloria M. Rose, wife of Negros Occidental Rep. Jules Ledesma, was seated by her lawmaker on the last row of the gallery where the Aquino skiers were.

Actress Dawn Zulueta, wife of Marikina Rep. Miro Quimbo, and Nurse Rep. Aaron Lagbaniso, seduced in a gown right in front of the Aquinos.

Too busy chatting

At around 3:30 p.m., the gates were breached the arrival of the President but guests in the gallery were too busy chatting. This prompted the sergeant-at-arms to approach them and point to the screen.

Many of the lawmakers were unperturbed even as uniformed personnel began to check on the session hall to clear the aisle where the President was to pass.

So many guests could not fit into the session hall that House officials decided to put up a viewing area in the lobby. Many lawmakers and members of the media were set up.

The session hall seats only up to 1,000 people. With reports from Leila Salaverria

'Nothing is impossible' if Pinoys united

From page A1

tion, employment and infrastructure programs. Mr. Aquino reported achievements and announced progress on plans:

• The conditional cash transfer program for the poor or poor has been extended to 3.1 million households as of February from 780,157 when he took office in June 2010.

For next year, the program will cover 3.8 million households, five times bigger than the program he inherited from the Arroyo administration.

Under the program, the beneficiaries get P1,400 a month on the condition that pregnant women get regular prenatal checkups, mothers may give children to clinics for immunization and parents keep their children in school.

According to the Department of Social Welfare and Development, the President said, 1,671,977 mothers are now getting regular checkups. 1,671, 814 children have been vaccinated against diarrhea, polio, measles and other diseases, and 4.17 million children no longer have chance because of poverty.

• Eighty-five percent of all Filipinos have been enrolled in Philhealth, compared to 61 percent in 2010. This means 23.31 percent more Filipinos have gained access to health insurance in the past two years.

Before noon: 3.2 million poorest households will benefit from Philhealth programs, including treatment for such diseases as breast cancer, prostate cancer and acute leukemia.

"The Philhealth," Mr. Aquino said, "is this: Go to any government hospital, show your Philhealth card, get treatment, and you will go home without shelling out a single centavo."

• By year-end, the government will have built 66 new public classrooms needed to solve the nine-year shortage in public schools, against the 2,979,202 claim needed to solve the former shortage, and done away with the 67.7 million-book shortage to achieve the 1:1 textbook-to-student ratio.

"We are ending the backlogs in the education sector, but the potential for shortages remains as our student population continues to increase," Mr. Aquino said. "For the longer term, we must build up the responsible parent fund bill enabling address this."

That drew the loudest of the 180 bursts of applause that interrupted Mr. Aquino's speech.

• A proposed 40-60 pension increase in the basic salary of military personnel and colleges next year.

• A steady decline in the unemployment rate from 8 percent in 2010 to 7.2 percent in 2011 to 6.8 percent this year.

• The completion by 2016 of the expansion in Pangkal, Batangas, Albay, Lapulapu, Misamis Oriental and the upgrading of the international airports in Mactan, Cebu, Tacloban, Legaspi and Puerto Princesa, Palawan.

• Full support of the flows of Terminal 3 of the Ninoy Aquino International Airport before the next Sona in July next year.

• Completion by 2015 of the extension of the Light Rail Transit Line 1 to Cavite, which would create more jobs in Cavite, Pantabangan and Cavite, and the addition of two elevated expressways that will connect the South Luzon and South Luzon expressways, and reduce travel time between Cavite to Pampanga and Calamba in Laguna to 1 hour and 40 minutes.

• Growing 2.3 million tourists in the past two years, compared to 1.2 million during the nine years of the Arroyo administration. The goal for this year: 4.6 million tourists.

• Reduction of new imports from 1.2 million metric tons in 2010 to 180,000 metric tons this year. Weather permitting, the Philippines may start exporting rice next year.

Military modernization

Turning to national defense, the President said the government allocated P28 billion for the modernization of the military. "This will soon match the P83 billion set aside for the projects in the past 15 years," Mr. Aquino said.

"But I only getting started, he said. If the proposed military modernization bill is passed by Congress, P75 billion will be allocated for defense in the next five years.

Saying the country cannot just give its territory away, Mr. Aquino called on the nation to unite behind his government's efforts to resolve the Philippines' dispute with China over Panatag Shoal in the West Philippine Sea.

"If someone wants your yard and tells you he owns it, will you allow that?" he said. "It's not right to give away what is rightfully ours. And so I ask for solidarity from our people regarding this issue. Let us speak with one voice."

He assured the nation: "We are consulting experts, every leader of our nation, over all, live—even those on the other side—as final a solution that is acceptable to all."

Legislative wish list

Mr. Aquino also asked Congress to pass crucial legislation, including the one on reform bill, the third amendment to the Anti-Money Laundering Act that would increase the number of predicate crimes covered by the law; his administration's reform of the military modernization bill, the responsible parenthood bill, and the amendment to the mining law that would increase the government's share in mining revenues.

"Let me remind you that our fight does not end with the ousting of one corrupt official, with the imposition of an anomalous contract, or the systemic overhauling of a government office," Mr. Aquino said, referring to former Chief Justice Renato Corona, for whom the impeachment trial is due to May be thrashed his affairs to Congress and Ombudsman Conchita Carpio Morales.

"I call upon Congress to pass our amendments to the Anti-Money Laundering Act, which may be used together our measures to hold the corrupt accountable," Mr. Aquino said.

Referring to his Executive Order No. 79 that outlined his administration's ousting policy, Mr. Aquino said: "Think about it. In 2011, P125 billion or 9 percent, went to the national treasury."

But the national treasurer lodging to the Filipinos, he said, "it shouldn't happen (but) all that's left to us is a no other choice's entrusted. We are hoping that Congress will work with us and pass a law that will ensure that the environment is cared for, and that the public and private sectors will receive just benefits from the exploitation."

Mr. Aquino appealed to the nation for support for his administration in next year's midterm elections so that changes may continue.

Continued support

"Elections are but appealing," he said. "We, our bosses, will be our compass. I ask you, then, what direction will we take? Do we continue treading the straight and righteous path, or do we dare the murky bottom? Do we look toward the crooked road that leads to a dead end?"

He reminded the nation of the emphasis in the Arroyo administration without, however, mentioning the ex-President's name, and said that there were still people who were concerned on taking that system back.

"That is why also the people who say 'Let go of the past. Learn. Forgive and forget as we can move forward as a people,'" Mr. Aquino said.

"I find this unacceptable. (And) are simply forgive and forget. For the 30 years that were taken from us?" Mr. Aquino said.

Arroyo, now a Pampanga representative, is detained in a government hospital, facing criminal charges for alleged electoral sabotage, breach of ethics involving an unexpected broadband Internet deal with a Chinese company and the plunder of millions of pesos in Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office funds.

Mr. Aquino thanked his officials for the dedicated service that enabled him to advance his programs and deliver on his promises to the people.

But most of all, he thanked the Filipinos for their cooperation and support.

Midpoint

"This is my third Sona; only three remain," Mr. Aquino said. "We are entering the midpoint of our administration. Last year, I challenged you to fully turn your backs on the culture of impunity; to take every chance to uplift your fellow Filipino from what we are experiencing today to a (not) 'Kaya ninoon(de)'.

He said that whenever people came to him to thank him for the change in their lives, his response was: "You made this happen."

And he concluded his speech: "I stand before you today and tell you: there is no cry Sona. Kwentado this happen. This is the Sona of the Filipino nation. Thank you."

THIRD TIME AROUND President Aquino gestures during his one-and-a-half hour speech at the House of Representatives. Behind him are Senate President Juan Ponce Enrile and House Speaker Feliciano Belmonte. Mr. Aquino eighty points out he is at the midterm of his tenure and he has 3 more Sonas to go. RAFY CABRAL

EMBASSY protester's mouth is gotten up on Commonwealth Avenue in Quezon City shortly before President Aquino delivered his Sona. FRANCIS ESPIRITU

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Tuesday, July 24, 2012
16th Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: Mic 7:14-15, 18-20
Shepherd your people with your staff, shepherd the flock of your inheritance that dwells alone in the scrub, in the midst of a fertile land. Let them feed in Bashan and Gilead as in the days of old, in the days when you went out of Egypt. Show us your wonders.
Who is a god like you, who takes away guilt and pardons crime for the remnant of his inheritance?
Who is like you whose anger does not last? For you do delight in mercy!
Have pity on us once more, take sides away guilt and pardons crime for the remnant of his inheritance?
Who is like you whose anger does not last? For you do delight in mercy!
Have pity on us once more, take sides away guilt and pardons crime for the remnant of his inheritance?

Gospel: Matthew 12:46-50
While Jesus was still talking to the people, his mother and brothers arrived: they wanted to speak to him and they waited outside. Someone said to him, "Your mother and your brothers are just outside; they want to speak with you."
Jesus answered, "Who is my mother? Who are my brothers?" Then he pointed to his disciples and said, "Look! Here are my mother and my brothers. Whoever does the will of my Father in heaven is for me brother, sister or mother."
The Word of the Lord.

Reflection:
The people of Israel thus were said for signs and wonders: Jesus is saying, "you are seeking a sign—I am God's sign!" Thus are saints we need to hear again today. Jesus' contemporaries are also for signs for signs and wonders: seeing or hearing deities, various fantastic gods... What we have and what we can see around us is a sign of Jesus! So that we are meeting these things out of our own imaginations?

Christian Communication Foundation, Philippine Center, 5F Office 501, 1345 Quezon City, Tel. (632) 921-2966, 921-4966, Fax (632) 921-4966, e-mail: christian@philcom.com.ph, website: http://philcom.com.ph/

Grilling of CJ nominees starts

By Jerome Aning

THE JUDICIAL and Bar Council (JBC) begins today interviewing the men and women aspiring to become the 24th Chief Justice of the Supreme Court.

Among the first to be interviewed from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. are Presidential Commission on Good Government Chairman Andres Bautista, law professor Soledad Cayetano de Castro and Justice Secretary Leila de Lima.

They will be followed by Free Legal Assistance Group chair Jose Manuel Diokno, lobbyist Ernesto Francia Jardeleza and women's rights and family lawyer Kristin Lagarda between 2 p.m. and 5 p.m.

To be interviewed on Wednesday are Court of Appeals Justice Rebecca de Guia, law professor and lawyer Antonio Eduardo B. Nachura, managing partner Rafael Morales, business columnist and former University of the Philippines law dean Raul Pangalangan, Justice Secretary Brion, Elections Commissioner Rene Sarmiento and retired Judge Manuel Cayetano.

On Thursday facing the JBC would be University of the East law dean and former government corporate counsel Amado Valdez, lawyer and chair of the government corporate arm panel with the National Democratic Front Rene Sabanpan, Senior Associate Justice Antonio Carpio, Justice Secretary Leonardo de Castro and Ateneo de Manila University law dean Cesar Villanueva.

On Friday Associate and Exchange Commissioner Fortunato Gorbeva, Cagayan de Oro City Rep. Rufus Rodriguez, Justice Secretary Secretary and former San Jose City Rep. Ronaldo Zamora, and Justice Ma. Lourdes Sereno and Presidential Adviser Jr. will be interviewed.

Justice Conchita Carpio Morales, JBC chair, said the interviews will be lively.

"We will not let them feel nervous," he told reporters.

Last Friday Deputy Ombudsman Orlando Casimiro and other JBC members inspected the Supreme Court hearing room where the interviews would be conducted.

The interviews will be aired over television and radio through government TV station NBN-4.

The public can send questions via e-mail to JBC at ... (mailto:judiciary@gmail.com), facebook (https://www.facebook.com/jbc.supremecourt) and Twitter (@supremecourtJBC).

100 seats for public

Forty seats in the hearing room and 60 seats in the Supreme Court lobby will be provided to the public on a "first come, first served" basis.

Lawyer Jose Mejia, JBC member representing the academe, told reporters the interviewees will be quizzed about their independence.

"Independence is crucial because it is one of the criteria laid down by the rules. But equally important is that he or she should also be perceived by the public as being independent," he said.

The JBC will also scrutinize the candidates' competence, integrity and probity as stated in Article VIII of the Constitution.

For the first time, the JBC will look into the wealth and properties of the candidates through their statements of assets, liabilities and net worth, and the waivers of secrecy of the bank deposits that they had submitted to the JBC, Mejia said.

The applicants, he added, would also be asked to comment on the statements of opposition to their nomination that several groups and individuals had filed.

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INQUIRIES WELCOME

P-Noy Sona: Political critics find fault, allies find only merit

By Michael Lim Ubac

THE LONGEST two hours of the Benigno Aquino (Sona) of President Aquino failed to convince his most ardent critics, but his fellow political allies were all praises for his performance.

Right after the President finished his speech, which lasted one hour and 28 minutes, Bayan Muna Rep. Teodoro Casiño told reporters that the Aquino speech was entitled to his own opinion.

"The President's speech is a smorgasbord of good news... that's maybe the reason why the [speech] was long, because he included everything that could be source of good news," Casiño said, adding that Mr. Aquino misused favorable statistics and "numbers that are genuine" in his presidency.

"But from my point of view, there are things that need to be said," Casiño said. "Whether he doesn't want to hear it, he needs to hear it and that's what we are saying. That's part of our work here in Congress. That's our duty."

Casiño, who is running for senator next year, said promises of Mr. Aquino's report to the nation could not be validated "on the ground and actual experience of the everyday Filipino."

He cited the endless complaints from appliances for PhilHealth benefits across the country.

"It's really a feel-good speech... here but for reward... that has to be balanced by what is the reality on the ground," Casiño said.

Casiño also pointed to the reliance of the President on the unending freedom of information bill, the skyrocketing prices of basic commodities and oil, private ownership of basic utilities, rampant human rights violations, looming for the poor, and continued demolition of urban poor dwellers.

He cracked his observation, that Mr. Aquino's speech had good news," Casiño said. "I think he has failed to really produce some impact on ordinary Filipino people. He has one, two, or three good stories, but they don't reflect the general reality on the ground."

But for Vice President Jejomar Binay, the President did quite well.

"The President spoke of very nice things," Binay said in a statement sent to the Philippine.

"He's right, nothing is impossible," Binay said.

"Now we see that the President's reforms are bearing fruit," he said, pledging support for his Aquino's programs designed to ease poverty.

Binay appealed to the nation to cooperate the Aquino administration.

The Estrada' top scores

Former President Joseph Estrada and his son, Sen. Jose "Jinggoy" Estrada, gave President Aquino high marks.

The elder Estrada said he was giving the President "80 percent" while the senator said the speech deserved "9.9 on a scale of one to 10."

The former President said Mr. Aquino needed to need the goals and aspirations laid from the nine years of the Arroyo administration.

"With all the problems left behind, the President's administration is really facing difficulties," Estrada said in Filipino.

Senator Estrada said he "liked everything" in Mr. Aquino's speech.

Sen. Edgardo Angara said the President delivered "an impressive account" of his accomplishments," while Sen. Gregorio Honasan said he gave Mr. Aquino a favorable grade.

Sen. Loren Legarda said she would support the President's policies. "I'm very happy about the universal health care for the 15 million indigent families," she said.

Not marching order

A small group of lawmakers actively pushing for the reproductive health (RH) bill grew President Aquino a standing ovation when he mentioned the importance of "responsible parenthood" in his speech.

But Senate Majority Leader Vicente Sotto III said he did not see the President's pronouncement as a marching order for both chambers of Congress to pass the bill once and for all.

"Do not put words into his mouth," he told reporters after the Sona, noting that the President made no mention of a "bill," "much less 'reproductive health.'"

"If he wanted it, he would have said 'bill' or 'responsible parenting bill.' He did not say a thing. He just said 'responsible parenting,'"

A spade's a spade

But Sen. Pia Cayetano, a sponsor of the RH measure in the Senate, welcomed the President's statement, saying "it's in his consciousness"—the need to deal with problems such as maternal health.

"I realized that he is trying to use a term that will be acceptable to many people," she said. "But, of course, being the sponsor, I call a spade a spade. That's OK with me if he likes to do it this way . . . . RH is RH whatever you want to call it."

Sotto, author of a concurrent resolution urging the lifting of the suborn child, said that there should be no quarrel when it comes to promoting "responsible parenthood."

"I don't see a problem at all because those of us who are against the bill are in favor of responsible parenting," he said.

But Sotto reminded the alarm as a provision in the RH bill that would classify certain forms of contraceptives as "essential medicines."

"The lifo inside the mother's stomach will not be protected [if that is passed]," he said in Filipino.

Happiest lawmaker

In the House of Representatives, Rep. Edcel Lagman, principal sponsor of the RH bill, was the happiest lawmaker in Congress yesterday.

Lagman stood up and applauded Mr. Aquino when the President suggested a look at responsible parenthood to solve ever-increasing modern population in public schools.

"We are truly happy and encouraged by the President's renewed and categorical endorsement of the passage of the responsible parenthood bill, which is actually the same as the responsible parenthood bill," Lagman said.

The President's mention of the proposed was brief, but Lagman said what mattered was the import and the impact of the message.

Church disappointed

Catholic Church leaders were disappointed at Mr. Aquino for supporting the passage of the RH bill.

"We don't see any connection between the education problem and the bill promoting and funding contraceptive usage," said Fr. Melvin Castro, executive secretary of the Episcopal Commission on Family and Life of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines.

"We will plan and keep you abreast," Castro said. "To the extremities, we shall pray and discern. The battle remains."

Retired Archbishop Oscar Cruz said Mr. Aquino "did not know what he was talking about" when he spoke about responsible parenthood.

"In church parlance, responsible parenthood means the use of natural family planning, which is contrary to contraception," Cruz said.

"I hope he will fulfill his promises," Cruz said. "If he does all the things that he said he would do, we might as well be in heaven."

Payback

Cruz insisted Mr. Aquino's "disheartening statement" on contraceptive amendments despite the call of Senate President Juan Ponce Enrile and House Speaker Feliciano Belmonte Jr. for changes to the Constitution.

"This is payback time. Congress did what the President wanted," Cruz said, referring to the ouster by impeachment of Chief Justice Renato Corona. "Now they want their Cha-cha."

But Mr. Aquino's failure to mention amendments in his speech is not deterring supporters of the move.

Camarines Sur Rep. Luis "Lito" Lobianco said the issue may not have stopped up in the speech, but he said the issue should still group for discussion.

Anyway, Mr. Aquino did not expressly say whether he was for or against amending the Constitution, Villafuerte said.

Open issue

"I think that issue should be open... He did not indicate lack of support; neither did he indicate positive support," he said.

Ati Nikay Rep. Florencio Noel said he thought amending the Constitution was not mentioned, discussion or amending the Constitution's economic provisions could continue.

"Congress might just want to discuss, as mentioned, the economic provisions that should have been modified a long time ago," Noel said.

Sen. Juan Ponce Jr. Enrile said even without the President's endorsement, he believed there's a need for amendments, especially concerning the economic provisions. With reports from Jerry E. Esplanada, Christine F. Figueroa, Philip C. Tubeza and Leila B. Salaverria

6,000 cops block 5,000 protesters hurling stones; scores hurt

Front page A1

said the injured included two foreign news agency photographers, two local TV cameramen, 13 policemen and a garbage truck driver. He said the protesters also destroyed a police car and a garbage truck.

In the middle of it all, around 10 days inside the show, prevailing a respite from the street scenes.

Wearing colorful headgear and banners, they paraded in front of the gladness of policemen and protesters chanting slogans calling on the President to push for the human rights of lesbians, gays, bisexuals and transsexuals.

Bayan militants numbering from several thousands staged relatively peaceful marches and rallies in major provincial capitals, according to police officials and business associations.

Generally peaceful

"All public assemblies and mass activities held today in different parts of Metro Manila and some key cities of the country were generally peaceful," Director General Nicanor Bartolome of the Philippine National Police said in a statement shortly after the President ended his speech at 5:30 p.m.

Protesters on Commonwealth Avenue denounced the police for stopping them at around noon—just hours before Mr. Aquino delivered his Sona.

Edre Olalia of the National Union of Peoples' Lawyers said Bayan filed an application for a rally permit on July 16.

He said the Public Assembly Act mandated the city government to act on rally applications within two days after which the authorization is deemed granted.

"As far as we are concerned, our protest is legal, by operation of law. And you are violating the law," Olalia told police officers.

Supt. Marcelino Pedrozo, the ground commander, and Supt. Nicanor Bartolome, a human rights member, said they did not see any approved rally permit from the City Hall. "We are allowing them to hold their rally here out of consideration," Pedrozo said.

Bayan Rep. Joel Pagdilao, Quezon City Police District deputy director for operations, estimated the crowd at over 5,000.

High prices denounced

Up to 5,000 protesters joined rallies in the provinces of Iloilo, Cebu and Aklan to voice out their own versions of the Sona.

"We have become poorer because the prices of commodities continue to increase. Many Filipinos have lost their jobs, especially those in Mindanao [villages]," said Aileen Casumin, a former barangay captain who joined a protest of indigenous peoples in Capiz.

In Bacolod City, about 300 Bayan militants burned an effigy of an eagle, representing the United States, and an octopus to symbolize the various social ills besetting the nation.

"It's on fire in the Philippines when it comes to the urban poor situation," said Bayan Congressman Raul Daza, the group's spokesperson.

Around 100 members of Bayan-Tacloban, Freedom from Debt Coalition, and Bukluran ng mga Manggagawang Pilipino marched from Colon Street to Fuente Osmeña Circle in Cebu City around 10 a.m. They brought with them banners and placards which they say allow their short program of assembly.

Bayan-Negros secretary general Christian Tampos asked the President's performance on handling the country and implementing economic and political programs as one, on a scale of zero to 10.

Sindulan and the two other groups in Cebu gave the President a grade of 70.75 in several aspects—the right to work, food, housing, health and education.

Protesters in Tacloban in the Leyte city of Baguio, Legaspi, Naga and Daet highlighted alleged human rights violations. With reports from Dona Z. Pazzibugan, in Manila; Nestor Burgos Jr., Bonnen Sapalaran and Carla Gomez, Inquirer Visayas; Inquirer Mindanao correspondent Robert Gonzaga, Inquirer Central Luzon; Desiree Cobias, Inquirer Northern Luzon; Mar T. Arguelles and Juan Escandor Jr., Inquirer Southern Luzon

Address gets thumbs up from business for more inclusive growth

Front page A1

of Mr. Aquino's State of the Nation Address (Sona) was also a positive one for investors.

"The boost in infrastructure spending will improve the country's competitiveness and attract more foreign direct investments. The Philippines' economic growth in the first quarter of 2012, one of the highest in the world, would continue to draw more investors into services like BPO [business process outsourcing], tourism and gaming, property, financial services, power and energy, retail trade and mining," Garcia said.

But an activist group said the much-hallyhooed economic growth under the Aquino administration remained inequitable.

Unequal growth

Jose Mari Lanzo, head of research at Campos, Lanuza & Co., considered the decline in the unemployment rate, especially the 800,000 new and increasing trend towards the brain's most uplifting economic industries.

"These were really tangible yet relatively unexposed gains of the administration," he said.

The use, however, of the much used by predecessors to highlight gains associated in taking full credit for something that could only be partially due to the Aquino administration's policies, Lanzo said.

He said he welcomed the months of socioeconomic indicators such as health, education, public safety and disaster preparedness because "these contribute to the long term competitiveness of the economy."

Legislation on mining

He said he hoped that Congress would have the call to put in place a legislation on the mining sector than the President had requested. Enacting revenue-sharing amendments would ensure much of the revenue from the country's mining sector, he said.

The Chamber of Mines of the Philippines (COMP) said the mining industry "will continue supporting the government in developing the industry and promoting environmental protection."

COMP chief Artemio Disini said the group was also keen on helping fast-track a much-awaited legislation on revenue-sharing, which is expected to lift the moratorium on new mining agreements.

Jorgie R. Dela Cruz Jr., Philippine Exporters Confederation president, Inc. president, said Mr. Aquino's stress on growth in tourism and investment are a good note for the rest of 2012 and the coming years.

Jesus L. Arranza, the Bohrinese, of Philippine Industries Inc. (PII), said most of the group's industry associations and corporate members were hellish on the economy having raised the governance reforms and improved infrastructure spending of the administration.

"For industries, we've experienced a better working relationship with the Bureau of Customs under its present leadership. With a good credit rating and all, yet, we can say the Philippines is open for business," Arranza said.

The electronics industry, which contributes the most to exports, also observed more interest from foreign investors.

Big and small investors from countries like Japan and Korea have been visiting the local electronics industry, Semiconductor and Electronics Industries in the Philippines Inc. (Seipi) is Mission is to make investors, Seipi president Ernesto B. Santiago said in a text message.

"We just have to see if this will all materialize in the next coming months," Santiago said.

An official of the Pampanga Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PamCham) said the President does should have touched on peace talks and the Constitution.

"And are we tackling the issues on foreign ownership in the proposed amendments to the 1987 Constitution?" asked PamCham president Jim Janssen said.

Guillermo Luz, National Competitiveness Council cochair for the private sector, said the underlying message of the Sona does that investment and ruling as a foundation for long-term change set the tone for the rest of the year.

"These are efforts that we should build upon year on year since long-term results cannot be expected to be visible right away," he said.

Several lawmakers described as "realistic, truthful and attainable" the President's report on the state of the country's economy and the targets for next year.

Deputy Speaker Rodolfo Fariñas said the economic issues covered comprehensive reform agenda that were achievable in the medium and long term.

Manila Rep. Amado Bagatsing said the Aquino administration was doing great. "If you have an honest leader, the rest will follow and the country will benefit because there is no corruption," Bagatsing said.

Over the top

Antipas Rep. Mikee Bello said Sona, as mentioned by the President, was indisputable. "But citing fewer selected data would have been more effective," Bello said. "Things have improved but enumeration of a multitude of data might raise serious issue the way I

Aurora Rep. Juan Edgardo Angara said the President's report on the economic gains gave the feeling that Filipinos were finally beginning that future.

"It is that feeling that these are tangible rewards at the end of the day and the country succeed [straight path]. The challenge for the country has always been to have inclusive growth and narrow the gap between the haves and the have-nots," he said.

In Zamboanga City, Mr. Aquino's rosy report has not been felt by the people he calls bosses, the poor ones, those who talked to the business, said.

Socorro Santos, a 46-year-old street sweeper, said she could hardly support her two children. She said she could not become a regular employee of the City Hall because no positions were available.

For environmentalists, Mr. Aquino was silent on commercial logging. "Sixty-eight percent of the loss of forest cover was caused by commercial and legal logging, but the President was silent about holders of a timber license agreement, or the legal and commercial logging, in his State of the Nation Address," said Inland Seas, spokesperson of the environmental group PhilEnvironment. With reports from Cynthia D. Balana, Inquirer Visayas; Tarra Quismorio, Armand Galang and Robert Gonzaga, Inquirer Central Luzon; Desiree Cobias, Inquirer Northern Luzon; Julie Alipala, Gerombon Lucero, Karlos Manlupig and Ayan Abellar, Inquirer Mindanao

Growth inequitable

By Philip C. Tubeza

LITTLE a study by the Philippine Institute for Development Studies (PIDS) supports Mahalaga Pantubay (MAHIP), or Campaign for Human Living, said: P3 trillion of the country's gross domestic product went to corporate income while only P1.4 trillion went to family income.

"Despite more than a decade of growth, millions of Filipinos remain poor while prices of goods and services are getting more unaffordable," said MAHIP lead convener Sonia Mendoza.

"Now can this growth become equitable when the [biggest] part of it went to the private sector, when the combined income of the top 40 Filipino billionaires is more than the combined income of the lowest 30 percent of the population?" Mendoza said.

She said the combined net worth of the top 40 billionaires amounted to P2 trillion, "almost equivalent to the proposed 2013 national budget," while when poor families received only P1,400 a month from the government's conditional cash-transfer program.

"Despite the 6-percent economic growth, half of the labor force is [employed] off, with a huge [number] employed workers while more than a third works as contractual," MAHIP said.

'The Philippines is no longer a joke'

From page A1

some said it was pure luck. Some that we have had eight, one is still just be lucky? When are the Philippine funds in, thanks. Today first books 6,000, many wondered if that were cumulative. Our mom, with so many reward logos, we are having trouble keeping score. For the record, we have had 44, and the ladies have won or almost 5,000," Mr. Aquino said.

Libs blindsided boxers

He said his first three months in office were daunting as the previous administration had used up so many shots of the budget in its last six months. "Many ways I like having sent into the big blindfolded, with our hands and feet bound, and the referee and the judges paid off.

In our first three months in office, I would look forward to Sundays when I could ask God for His help," the President said.

"We expected that it would take no less than two years before our reforms took hold. Would our countrymen be willing to wait that long? The perception that once abused to power is finally using that power for the benefit."

The President said his reforms had taken root, especially in the health sector. (See Batasan story).

He is targeting full Philhealth coverage by his last year in 2016 and he is planning to use additional revenues from pending tax reforms on alcohol and cigarettes for this and other health-care reforms.

Infrastructure program

"We can easily fulfill all these goals, if the air tax bill—which nationalizes taxes on alcohol and tobacco products—can be passed. This bill makes sure more expensive while at the same time making more money for health," Mr. Aquino said.

He said his job generation strategy was anchored on building and interconnecting the country's infrastructure with the completion of airports, railways and expressways within his term.

No kickbacks

"We will not build our road network based on kickbacks or favoritism. We will build them according to a clear system. Now that resources for these projects are no longer allocated haphazardly, our plans will no longer end up underfilled. They will become complete roads that benefit the Filipino people," he said.

The President said the infrastructure development program would be the catalyst for more tourist arrivals in the country.

"In two years, we would have had a bigger growth in tourist arrivals, compared with the increase charted by the previous administration in so many years," he said.

He said the country was also a favorite destination for investments.

"Japanese investments in the Philippines are now at a record high. Those, however, are about a fifth the size of those of Indonesia's and this pressures hard.

Whoever chose the photos of the senators seemed to have made sure to get unflattering

shots of Senators Ferdinand Bongbong Marcos Jr. still not satisfied. He says if 14.7 million tourists came to Malaysia in 2011 and around 17 million visited Thailand, would it be too far-fetched to have 10 million tourists visiting the Philippines eventually by 2016?" Mr. Aquino said.

Rice production

Anti-corruption reforms have also led to increases in rice production.

"Organizations' Inventory Audits has said that its key to our success is a feasible irrigation program and the assistance implementation of the certified seeds program. What is galling is that this knowledge is not new ... it simply wasn't applied. If they had only done their jobs right, where could we have been by now?" asked the President.

He assured farmers that the government was doing everything to ensure that they can

From page A1

receive their fertilizer vouchers worth.

"There are times, however, when we're shortsighted. I say to them: 'We will obey the law.' The law says, the vouchers stay, and I say, 'Before I step down, all the land covered by CARP (Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program) will have been distributed,'" he said.

Inspiring confidence

"My mother initiated the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program. It is only just that this program's next life continues during my term," he said in reply to doubts about his sincerity in completing the farmers' takeover of their lands.

He said that his reforms had proven that continuing corruption would inspire confidence in the economy and therefore put food on the table.

"Using businesses in the Philippines was once considered no-duty ... no risks ... were no-brainers and they were corporate

From page A1

Recall that it was Santiago who alerted daily Sol the prosecution team with mouthfuls of criticism for its supposed unpreparedness and inept presentation of evidence against Corona during the trial.

Grudging nod

Also, why was the photos of self-exposure limited to those of Justice Secretary Leila de Lima, Internal Revenue Commissioner Kim Henares and Ombudsman Conchita Carpio Morales?

Private prosecutor Rizalo Buchitea, who spent more time than most of the House prosecutors in examining witnesses and dredging questions from the head defense lawyer, Senator Enrile, appears to have been given a cameo appearance—his close-up is planted at the far right edge of the mural.

Thankfully, Corona has a calm closeup shot, while some members of the defense team are huddled in a parallel group at the left bottom of the mural.

Not his idea

Don't look at Tupas. It wasn't his idea, he said. He told reporters

he was surprised when he was informed about the mural early yesterday.

"We know [the impeachment] is very historical. The first in our history, and probably the last," he said.

Tupas said the pictures brought back memories.

"While we were looking at the pictures, the memories came rushing back," he said. "It was a difficult battle by the House for the people. It wasn't easy, but you saw the opposition side of the House of Representatives."

The President had strongly wanted Corona ousted, and the House impeached him in record time—one day, with 188 members signing the articles of impeachment.

Earlier, the House passed a resolution commending its prosecution panel and the private prosecutors for winning the case against Corona, who was convicted of "culpable violation" of the constitution and not disclosing his dollar accounts in violation of the Constitution.

The Senate, voting 20-3, convicted and ousted Corona on May 29.

House 'Great Wall' shrine to historic impeachment cast, crew

From page A1

THE FLOOR TO CEILING | photo montage showing mostly scenes from the January-May 2012 impeachment trial of Chief Justice Renato Corona, such as shots of the prosecution and defense panel members, Senate President Juan Ponce Enrile, top witnesses and one of President Aquino by the podium.

as was credited for helping bring down the country's top magistrate.

There are also numerous "bird-spaced" photos of the prosecutors and Enrile panel's spokesperson Corona.

The black-and-white mural is a sharp contrast to the pending "anti-pork bill" that prohibits elected officials and even appointed ones from uploading their pictures on projects sponsoring government projects.

Questions raised

The session yesterday churned upon the ceilings-to-floor mural, which appeared to have been hastily installed. Bouquets of fresh flowers still stood at both ends of the mural.

The mural was installed earlier yesterday. After a ribbon cutting, the lawmakers passed for pictures in front of their own images and their fellow lawmakers' members.

A quick scan of the project cites some questions.

How come the photos of the Speaker, Tupas and Farinas are bigger than that of Senate President Juan Ponce Enrile, who

were more accessible than any of the prosecutors for his august handling of the trial as presiding judge of the impeachment court?

Smaller photos

Those are also photos of the

senators who sat through the long-month trial. Those, however, are about a fifth the size of those of Senators and the prosecutors.

Whoever chose the photos of the senators seemed to have made sure to get unflattering

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When politics, fashion meet on red carpet, it's Sona season

From page A1

ties the diversity and unity of Filipino cultures," Ramoncillo said.

As expected, representatives from party-list groups such as Gabriela, Bayan Muna and Anakpawis didn't jazz up the chance to wear their political statements.

Gabriela Rep. Emmi de Jesus wore what she described as a "Lorelei-inspired" ensemble consisting of a peasant-inspired dress fashioned from a half-shoulder black Swiss Batik. Her top's skirt carried the words "Gabriela Magdalo, Bantayog ng Kapayapaan" to reflect her advocacy of "free, appropriate, basic and nationalist healthcare for Filipinos."

Bayan Muna Rep. Teddy Casiño's barong-inspired gown by Edgar San Diego and artists Boy Bontigao and Susan Ortiz had colorful scenes of people's basic needs such as food, clothing, shelter, electricity, education and gas, shaped to spell out the message, "Serbisyo Bulol" (bring them pieces).

Rep. Rafael Mariano of Anakpawis dressed the embroidered statement on his barong in honor of President Aquino "Hacienda Luisita, ipamahagi Mo!" (Distribute Hacienda Luisita) and his colleagues, Bayan Muna Rep. Neri Colmenares had the words "Free all political prisoners" embroidered on the left side of his barong, its right side dominated the outspoken gesture from the Social Security System ("Sana ang Bangsa ay SSS").

Austerity

Cebu Rep. Rachel del Mar's political statement centered on austerity as she claimed that she could have worn a costume for the cheapest dress. "I don't like spending," she said, so she decided to let her costume in a white dress made by Cebu designer Deb Amancio.

Del Mar said the dress cost her only P9,000, and that she had opted for white as she could wear it again for other occasions.

Quezon Gonzales, wife of Mandaluyong City Rep. Neptali Gonzales II, proved just as spartan-minded as she wore an old blue-bought pifia terno in white by Cary whose husband reelected the city's Second district.

"This is the first time I'm wearing this dress to the Sona," she said. "But I've worn it a couple of times before."

Tessie Sana, the wife of Northern Samar Rep. Raul Daza, dressed herself as an "un-arid fan" of President Aquino and showed his support through the yellow ribbons pinned on her nails. The motif extended to the headwork on her yellow terno.

Some guests pushed for homegrown designers, among them Jun Villanueva Bajar, wife of Cibac Rep. Sherwin Tugna, whose black terno with appliques of pink sampaguita and cadena de amor was designed by Jo Batilo, her hometown from Boracay, Bohol province.

Usual fashion plates

Similarly, Cebu Mayor Michael Rama chose a Stefano Gallardo Sarong for Cebu and designer Philip Rodrigues, while Janice Salimbangon, wife of Cebu Rep. Benhur Salimbangon, wore a two-colored frock designed by fellow Cebu native Cary Santiago.

Yesterday's event also had its share of the usual fashion plates whose clothes live up to the simple injunction, "Look good and still stand out on the red carpet."

Leyte Rep. Lucy Torres-Gomez was her radiant self in an apricot-colored dress by Randy Ortiz. She and husband Richard made for a stunning pair, twinkled only by Tagaytay City Rep. Freddie Tiliga, Ilo Bonifacio, wife of Cavite Rep. Crispin Remulla, and Antonio de Rozas, wife of Negros Occidental Rep. Julio Ledesma.

Eape Tiliga wore Pepito Albert's idea of a contemporary silk terno in deep aubergine with a fishtail skirt, accented with ribbons crisscrossing the upper bodice. Albert down-played the traditional terno sleeves in favor of ribbons.

De Rozas also drew her share of attention in a nude terno with matching lace overlay by Cheryl Moreno. The former movie star was with younger sister Maggie and hubby, both in JC Buendia outfits.

Nude terno

Apart from De Rozas, Tagaig Mayor Lani Cayetano, wife of Sen. Allan Peter Cayetano, also stood out in a nude chiffon terno with a draped skirt and a feather accented with a blue layer of silver lace by Cabral.

"Library! Bio color because it's versatile and easy to wear," said Mayor Cayetano of her outfit that fits into it as a wedding gown one.

Navotas Cathy, wife of Ako Bisaya Rep. Alfredo Garbin, also opted for a nude terno made of embroidered lace and accented with a ribbon leather belt and cuffs-type ones. The belt-filling of Senator Bayanni Mrs. Garbin's figure and behind the fact that she had just given birth six months ago.

"I insisted on the belt with a rhinestone buckle to make the outfit look younger," she said.

Lingling Co, wife of Aks Bisaya Rep. Christopher Co, and daughter Nikka also went terno by Cabral. Mrs. Co opted for a neatly all-black number with a plunging neckline and fishtail bust line, while her daughter wore a violet and fuchsia gown with a ruched bodice and draped skirt.

Yacap Rep. Carol Lopez also wore a midnight blue gown by Cabral which had a stylized panache and floral accents on the skirt.

The statuesque Cindy Ejercito, wife of San Juan City Rep. Jr Ejercito, wore an electric blue terno with a draped bodice also by Cabral.

Cabral, along with Orta and Lanzel, had the most number of clients in yesterday's red carpet show.

Flapper-inspired

Lanzel dressed the likes of Lanao del Norte Rep. Imelda Dimaporo in a black terno accented with beaded cutouts on the bodice and an electric cobalt fishtail hemline, and Bhaya Army Barzaga who wore a sequined pencil terno with beaded floral appliques.

Proudly showing off their ethnic heritage were Yasmin Arroyo-Madrona, wife of Ati Rep. Nasser Pangandaman, and daughter Nabila who clinched the terno in favor of Mindanao-inspired gowns by Amir Sali.

Yasmin opted for a black and gold gown adorned with a beaded panel inspired by Arabian motifs. Her daughter wore a white silk gown with layers of organza accenting the gown's neckline and part of the skirt.

"It's very Western," said Nabila, "except for a beaded malong across on the train."

Aga didn't prove to be a less dramatic for some women who came up with interesting ensembles.

Siaga actress Cecile Guidote-Alvarez, wife of former Sen. Heherson Alvarez, for instance, wore an old Jess Paredes turquoise shift, which she combined with a lame, rounded-to jacket made of woven material by a native tribe in Palawan province.

"The glass pendant I'm wearing is a gift from my husband," she said. "The look is personal, as well as figure-friendly."

Secretary Rebo Lozada, presidential assistant on climate change, brought materials from Boracay and had her dressmaker fashion a stylized Maria Clara dress in jusi accented with trims and cutouts, which she paired with a printed shirt.

Good-looking pair

Actress Bay Sonny Angara and wife Louise also made for a good-looking pair on the red carpet. The exotic Mr. Angara donned a pink champagne colored off-shoulder kimono by Randy Ortiz.

Trenton Tupas, wife of Bay. Boliv Mel Tupas Jr, wore a Randy Ortiz off-shoulder dress that flattered her slim frame. The Eclipse line Drape dress sported a lovely skirt and lace bell sleeves.

Bagong Henerasyon Rep. Bernadette Herrera Dy chose a Randy Ortiz terno in Filipiniana style, while the petite Makati City Rep. Monique Lagdameo arrived in a pink terno by Rajo Laurel.

Former actress and congressman's wife Shelly Festil wore a white shoulder-tied terno with a draped bodice by Ching Santos.

Rose Lacierda Uy, sister of presidential spokesperson Edwin Lacierda, wore a banana fiber dress by Dita Sandico Ong, while Tessie Sandoval, the Secretary of Social Welfare and Development, stuck to her go-to designer, Jojo and Mia Unjieng, who made a 1920s-inspired fitted beaded dress with modified butterfly sleeves and a feathered hem. The dress featured a cutout on the left shoulder of the athlete-manager's round back.

Frederick Pereira, who typically makes clothes for the ladies, wore woolen, made a blue-violet chiffon terno for her friend Senator Loren Legarda. He also made the pinstripe pifia barong of Bong Bong Marcos Jr. Rudy Santiago and the terno of Sob-scale pifia cannon for North Cotabato Rep. Nancy Catamco.

Lawyer Lorna Kapunan, who came with her friend Sen. Miriam Defensor Santiago, donned a Pablo Nuevo costume. The still feisty Governor broke the Filipiniana mood and set off quite a black ballet suit. "My Filipiniana dress won't fit," she said in jest.

FASHION, POLITICAL STATEMENT ON THE RED CARPET

SCENE-STEALER Little Nina, daughter of Agusan Rep. Jose Aquino, gets a taste of the red carpet

VICE PRESIDENT Jejomar Binay chats with former President Fidel V. Ramos.

'CALL ME' Presidential niece Kris Aquino and Makati Mayor Junjun Binay get distracted during President Aquino's State speech.

KOY TEKOY Bagobo of Mountain Province

SUUJ Rep. Nur-ana Sahidulla

OMBUDSMAN Conchita Carpio Morales

SAYAH HIJAB Rep. Tobi Tan gets it off his chest (above), while Antipolo's Rep. Rafael Mariano gets personal with a message directed at the President (top, right).

FORMER Aklanon Rep. Rio Hontiveros

LEYTE Rep. Lucy Torres-Gomez

SEN. LOREN Legarda

SEN. PIA Cayetano

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

OPINION

Vol. 27 No. 229

Mining issues

EDITORIAL

THE NEW mining policy of the Aquino administration was envisioned to narrow the differences among the stakeholders. But in its earnest desire to address the needs of various interest groups, the administration is plowing no one. Mining firms were hit by a freeze on the approval of new permits and the prospect of paying higher taxes, environmentalists were disappointed that existing mining contracts will be honored, and local governments units are hurting from the provision that says local taxes should be aligned with national laws on mining.

A key reform in Executive Order 79 is the increase in the government's share of the mining income through an equitable revenue-sharing scheme. In fact, no new mining contracts will be approved until Congress has passed a law raising the royalty fees. Environment Secretary Ramon Paje says the government wants to more than double the royalty fees or 5 percent from 2 percent. He argues that the target rate is reasonable because other countries like Canada, Chile and Australia impose royalty fees ranging from 7 percent to 16 percent.

The money involved is significant. The taxes, fees and royalties paid by the mining industry in the first half of 2011 amounted to P4.62 billion, of which national government agencies got P2.98 billion in taxes and P1.18 billion in royalties and other fees. LGUs hosting mines, on the other hand, received P457.8 million. For the entire 2010, the taxes paid by the industry reached P15.37 billion.

But can the House of Representatives move on the EO's stricter components with the same dispatch it showed in its response to then Chief Justice Renato Corona? Will it not be impeded by powerful lobby groups? (The "six taxes" bill, which is filed and refiled in Congress year after year, easily comes to mind.)

Another sticky issue was raised by the Joint Foreign Chambers of the Philippines, which counts as members nearly all foreign firms doing business here. It is concerned about Section 4 of the EO, which states that while the government will continue to issue exploration permits, it will disturb such agreements from the grant of mineral extraction agreements. The group says the provision is "a deterrent to investments." It warns that while the EO states that those with exploration permits have the first option to develop an area should a mine deposit be discovered, "no mining company can be expected to spend extremely large amounts of money on exploration without certainty [as to] the grant of a mining title."

As we have said earlier, the EO's extension on the rule of LGUs is problematic. In declaring the supremacy of national laws over local laws, the EO opens the mining industry to tedious and unproductive court litigation. Section 12 provides that local ordinances should be consistent with the Constitution and national laws, that LGUs should be confined to the imposition of "reasonable limitations" on mining activities in their jurisdictions, and that these should be consistent with national laws and regulations. But who determines "reasonable limitations"?

Bureau of Mines records show that half of the country's 80 provinces have passed ordinances against large-scale mining. This early, Gov. Felipe Nava of Guimaras has indicated that the local government would stand by an ordinance banning mining on the island-province. Guimaras has a strong case because it is on the list of areas to be developed as tourism spots. It is also trying to be declared among the protected areas, which EO 79 excludes from the reach of mining firms. (These "no-go" areas will also cause a problem. How will the government deal with mining applications for areas that are not significantly high-value lists of conservation, tourism or agriculture?)

A bright spot we see is the provision that only one law—Republic Act 7076—still be followed for small-scale mining. The law says that all small-scale mining can be done only within the "Minahang Bayan." This will limit the miners to one place and allow for the proper maintenance and treatment of wastes. Prior to that, LGUs could issue permits anywhere through Presidential Decree 1899, making small-scale mining extremely hard to regulate and leading to the pollution of watersheds.

The Joint Foreign Chambers says the swift implementation of EO 79's key components will help the Philippines become an attractive place to do business under the banner of responsible mining. The administration must speed up the formation of the multisectoral council that will oversee implementation. It will be a difficult balancing act for the planned council, which will have to find that desired middle ground.

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Expelling banshees

VIEWPOINT

Juan L. Mercado

EVER KICK a mound of rotten sand? dirty or termite-spill out locker shelves. That's today's image of the country's "ghost voting registrant"—other Presidents Aquino shredded the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao's notorious "Book of Voters."

Shooting Congress' Joint Resolution 3, the President ordered the registration of voters, starting from A. The scientific census the government pulled off, Tom's Pain, Magsaysay Jaimes and Lanao del Sur, plus the strife of Maguindanao and Lanao.

Joint Resolution 3 has widespread ramifications. Some elections are upside or double, sometimes triple, registrations. They constitute the so-called "underground army" of "manufactured votes." Wedded by political warlords, they can by local as well as national elections.

In Sherwin City "Women Mormon students of Manhattan State University were chloroformed to assume Mormon names and register," the Internet reported. "Wishing registration caused the number of dead and ghost voters... (They) pointed to Texas, the Dominican Peninsula, Lanao del Norte, Ilocos and Maguindanao."

"In Duin Sandi Amputican town, the registrant looked old of 13 to 14," Carol Arguillas of Mindanews reported. "But she claimed to be 18. You're in college? we asked. She shook her head. High school? No? "Grade 6," she replied, almost in a whisper. Where did you start going to school? The girl kept silent. When will you turn 18? Dito daw."

When registration resumed July 16, above 1.3 million had applied for inclusion, Commission on Elections Chair Jose Brillantes estimated. That's lower than the 1.7 million crammed in the nullified registry.

Over 30,000 names were mailed trying to burn their way into the new lists. Their names were impounded, Brillantes added. They'll be recommended to a biometric verification process in days ahead. In Lanao del Sur, a nongovernmental organization counted 17 persons less than the 933,417 listed in the scrapped lists.

The ARMM's population stood at 4.1 million in 2007. But a 2010 consolidation by the National Statistics Office found its population a fraction of "more than 3.3 million." Therefore, the country posted a population growth at 1.8 percent. See the ARMM; it claimed a population growth of 3.4 percent.

Registered voters in the National Capital Region dipped by 4 percent in 2007. In contrast, ARMM's bolted. "Is this statistically possible?" Asian Development Bank statistician Lhuillier Dalupaneda asked equally skeptical fellow scientists at an earlier Philippine Statistics Conference.

Of course not, demographer Rhoodee Concepcion wrote. The ARMM analysis must be rejigged. Still, the "impossibility" jacked up Lanao del Sur's voting population by a staggering 16 percent. Sulu's leaped by 12 percent, and Tawitawi's by 6 percent. Maguindanao swept the field by nearly 54 percent.

Falsified registration lists enabled Gloria Macapagal Arroyo's candidates to clone out the opposition 12-0 in Maguindanao's mid-decade elections. Only four years later did Ampatuan "Baby" Pimentel III manage to get his rightful house seat.

Allied Live map lists Lodi at Zimbleber's registration list. Almost "17 percent of names appearing on the register were of dead people," notes the South African based bookmaker of forecasts Stratfax. Its director Robert Mugabe's list names Barack Obama, then-senior U.S. presidential aide who was 118 years of age. Blair sees him on the same date.

Overall, Mugabe racked on 3 million phantoms to the list. "Zimbabwe's voters' roll is beyond redemption," the ISS said. "ISS cannot even be used as one of the building blocks in the construction of a new voters' roll. To simply have to be scrapped completely."

In the United States, Pew Center found at least 2 million dead voters' names still on voters' rolls. And 2.75 million people are registered to vote in more than one state. But only about three quarters of the eligible population is registered.

The findings do not suggest fraud, explained the director of Pew's Election initiatives, David Becker. But registration systems, in many states, enter vast quantities of data by hand. "These methods are costly error-ridden, and inefficient as they are quaint. It costs the United States 11 times more to maintain a voter list than Canada," he added. By innovative technology and data-matching methods, Canada registers 93 percent of eligible population.

The ARMM is haunted by phantom students, search teachers, "ghost ghost schools to ghost barangays," says Jamal Kulayan, who once organized education supervisor in January. A Tausug, Kulayan found it had become practice, in the region, for teachers to blast student-enrollee numbers.

There are 2,000 teachers in excess of 20,000 officially hired. "Names of teachers already dead, retired or abroad are still listed." They continue drawing their salaries. A "Task Force on Abolition of Ghosts and Creation of Schools" is now operational.

The new final Book of Voters is still absent. But a consensus on making biometric elections the cornerstone of ARMM reforms exists, states Jaime Tadeo, chair of Transparency and Governance's Bantay Halalan, 2001. The new technology of biometrics will be used to ensure honest polls.

If this drill succeeds, it'll be a fitting legacy for P-Noy, the new ARMM officials and the NGOs working to purge the lists. Exorcising banshees is a welcome change.

(Sorry for skipping a few issues. Wheelchair bad back typing and up something. Forget this was three decades later. Or was it four?—JLM)

A matter of justice

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

BEFORE HE/SHE/IT'S State of the Nation Address, Bayan passed an interesting perspective. P-Noy, it said, may no longer blame Gloria Macapagal Arroyo for the country's ills. "He has been in office for 18 months. Administration must no has to take responsibility for the crisis in the country.... for all its PR gimmicks and rhetoric, the last two years of the Aquino administration have been all about unfulfilled promises and the worsening conditions of the people." To this thing it said, the country remains mired in unemployment, poverty, underdevelopment and the massive overseas migration of workers.

My first reaction when I read that was to wonder what Bayan would have said about the first two years of Ninoy Viller if he had won as president. The reason it won the presidential candidate Bayan supported in the last elections, despite several scenarios changing him with throwing the CD. Would it have said his two years were marked by fulfilled promises and the improving conditions of the people?

But that's hypothetical. Bayan's fault is not without epithets tossy in a deeper respect. Which is that the one thing activists cheated there [and even now] in the streets is the greatest basis of this country was land of American imperialism. Feudalism and bureaucrat capitalism, such as only second and third. Which was the reaction—not just from the Americans but from people like Lee Kuan Yew,—that it was time we stopped blaming colonialism, semi-colony, for our ills, as we had to take responsibility for the wretched state of our country.

In fact, though there was a grain of truth to the notion, there was a bigger grain of truth to the complaints. The sheer length of our colonial history and the sheer depth of its impact on our mentality, quite apart from the most complete, are symbols of its perpetuation even after independence. Of bases, sure, but also of those subtle [or incidentally here] ones back in disguised forms—justified the complaints. You cannot just erase the past, like you do a bad experience, and say let's begin with a clean slate. The past always has the present in the most tenacious of ways, some more tenacious than others.

The same is true here. We hasn't haven't completely broken in the Marcos camp telling Cory Aquino to stop blaming the Marcos regime for the country's ills. It's time she took responsibility for them. By herself. We have it again in the Arroyo camp—well, not really. It's only P-Noy Noynoy Aquino who's stop blaming the Arroyo regime for the country's ills. It's time he took responsibility for them. By himself. There is a grain of truth to it. Someone it's coming from sound interest, but there's a far bigger grain of truth to the complaint. The past affects the present in the most tenacious of ways. The past circumscribes the possibilities of the future in the most drastic of ways. Some pasts are more tenacious than others.

More to the point, there's a far bigger grain of truth to the complaints—and the need to do something about them. Specifically, to hold the people responsible for the crimes of the past. That is the only thing that will stop their examples from being followed. That is the only thing that will stop what they've done from being perpetrated. Hell, that is the only thing that will stop them—look at the Marcoses—from continuing back.

That's the part that particularly distresses me about Bayan's complaint. Which is that it fails in with that unrushed arguments that we've already spent a great deal of time with Bayan. Consider Luneta Inquisitioners. Let's forget Gloria, she's out of power, she's been punished enough, let's deal with the present. Let's focus on stopping poverty. Let's move on. Still, we do that and we won't be able to deal with the present. We do that and we won't be able to stop poverty. We do that and we won't be able to move on. We do that and we'll just get vast tons of them in the future. We do that and we'll just get them in the here and now.

Whatever the P-Noy administration's failings, and I agree that there are many, chief of them in my view the failure to even begin to wrench Philippine politics from its vapid roots, accentuate the lack of ideological differences between the 1984 and the UP-NPC, preserving Gloria, bumbling Gloria, and hopefully jailing Gloria are, and will be, its biggest accomplishment. It is the first time a Philippine government has taken a regime of the past to task. At least on grounds of principle and not of self-preservation. Arroyo did jail Joseph Estrada, but merely to strengthen her slippery hold on power. Not one Cory did that to the Marcoses, which has resulted in their coming back to haunt. It is the first time a decent leader has hastened himself to confront the epic task.

The notion that if you just set aside questions of morality and focus on life-and-death issues, whose you'll get this country going is not just dangerous, it's plain wrong. That was Arroyo's governing theory. Let's forget forgiveness. Let's forget pardon. Let's forget the lying, cheating and stealing. Let's just concentrate on the economy. The refutation of which came when a post-nabbed asked her, after she gave a glowing account of her economic performance, why the poor had gotten poorer.

The response is simple. Justice is a social justice issue. Justice is a gut and gut-wrenching issue. Justice is a life-and-death issue. You forget justice and you might as well forget about ending poverty. You forget justice and you might as well forget about governing. You forget justice and you might as well forget about the future. You forget justice and you might as well forget about life.

You forget Gloria, and she'll be back.

Fighting poverty is a matter of justice. And justice is the heart of the matter.

Sustaining the state of the economy

THE PRESIDENT'S State of the Nation Address is always occasion for assessing the performance of the chief executive and his administration, and always prominent in such assessment is the state of the economy. I like to distill this assessment down to what I have come to call the PEM or P-E-M test, standing for peace, equity and modernization (and fiscal discipline). These, according to the popular surveys, are the economic yardsticks that our people use to gauge our administration, in that order of importance. Based on the latest available data, the latter is good on all three. I must say it has been a long, arduous journey before here the case is so since I started taking stock of the economy's performance in the summer (two out of three had been most common). The data, which are there for all to examine, speak for themselves.

Price issues are the first to be addressed. The inflation rate in June was down further to 2.8 percent, almost half to speed a year ago, and the slowest in the year so far. It's also worth pointing out that inflation in food prices this year (2 percent) is much lower than those in other goods and services (3.5 percent). This suggests that the relatively low rate of price increases in the past, when budgets are dominated by food, has been relatively lighter than on the taxpayer. Last year, it was the other way around, when food prices were up 4 percent against inflation of 4.5 percent.

The aggregate jobs picture has likewise been improving. Unemployment rate as of April was 6.9 percent, against last year's 7.2 percent. More than a million net new jobs were generated by the economy since the one-year period, extending the number of employed persons to 38.8 million. Of these, a whole average a million per year. Over 300,000 of these new jobs came from agriculture, a sign that job creation has been beneficial in the rural areas where the jobs are most needed. While the Nation-al Statistics Office has yet to release the figures, many now take came from industry and services, classic manufacturing growth suggests that jobs growth in manufacturing has also been speeding up.

No Free Lunch

Cielito F. Habito

Manufacturing output was up 4.7 and 2.2 percent in value and volume terms respectively as of last May, an improvement over last year's 0.9 and 2.6 percent, respectively.

Growth in aggregate income, measured as gross domestic product (GDP), had surprised most of us in the first quarter, with the 6.8 percent growth well exceeding most analysts' expectations and beating last year's 4.9 percent. Now, however, that spurt of this improved growth was due to the services sector, whereas agriculture and industry both saw slower growth compared to last year's performances. In the end, though, what matters more is how such growth has translated into new jobs, and as noted above, this has improved to agriculture and likely in manufacturing as well. Most analysts believe that this growth performance can be sustained through the rest of the year, with business optimism running high and major internal and external drivers of growth looking positive.

Still, one hopes that all this doesn't lull the government into complacency. While beyond the agregate numbers are even more signs of an improving economy, there are persisting weaknesses as well. Income inequality of the truly inequalities in our economy, which seem much more pronounced here than elsewhere. There are signs that poverty is declining (with the Social Weather Stations' poverty and hunger figures having improved in the second quarter), but the evident missing to have been left behind. There is much catching up to do on infrastructure, wherein we lag behind most-ably both relative to our neighbors and to our requirements. And while government's revenue collections have been rising, targets are still being missed even with higher than-expected economic growth. Both the Bureau of Internal Revenue and Bureau of Customs have yet to show a dramatic departure from historical trends. To be fair, that of an enquiries much better tax compliance especially on the part of our biggest individual and corporate taxpayers. Many wondered, for example, why some prominent names in the recent Forbes billionaires' list are nowhere near the top of the list of the country's top taxpayers.

The legislative agenda must reflect the needed measures to address these persistent weaknesses. Topping the list of these the President must push are those that would further strengthen transparency and accountability, with the long languishing Freedom of Information bill being a particularly important one. Others that are critical to his game crusade against graft and corruption. Bank secrecy laws also need to be aligned better with international norms, so that those laws can never be used in unjustified cases. Laws that would further streamline government processes, especially the law banning the so-called "sinecures" and rationalizing tax incentives, must also receive top priority. I would also hope to see our legislators revive the bill seeking to restructure our coconut agencies to address age-old weaknesses in our coconut industry. Here's wishing that from all growth of our economy and correcting the highly skewed distribution of income is enactment of a strong competition policy that outlaws unfair trade practices and prevents monopolistic maneuvers by large firms.

Much is still remains to be done. Sustaining our economic upward demands that the executive, legislative and judicial branches of the government all row our boat in unison and in the same direction. We just can't risk going around in circles again as the crew when we cares only paused to swipe right ahead.

• • •

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Collateral damage

"HE SOUNDS sincere this time," my mom says to me, her expression hopeful. I look at her like she just entered a disgusting swamp water.

We're talking about my dad, of course. We've had this conversation a hundred times in the last few weeks. My mom is an optimist, and I try not to contradict her, most of the time. But this is one time I must say.

My dad is a serial cheater, the kind that pretends to be sorry for a while and then goes back to his old ways when he thinks no-body's looking. For the most part, my mom has always been willing to look the other way—she has my number, literally and figuratively, and I'm sure she knows I'm not the type to mess around with married men—but my dad has never been able to keep his pants on. I suppose I'm not the only child in my family who has had to deal with this.

Young Blood

KC Ilo

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twenty-something and below.—Ed.

The first infidelity was forgivable. It might be considered an indiscretion—no big deal. It happened years ago, during a very turbulent time in my parents' relationship, and my mom forgave him, never said a word about it to us kids. We were much younger then, and I guess it was a wise decision on her part. If there's one thing that can be said about my mom, it's that she always put us kids (and herself) first, even when it made her unhappy. She's always been about "family," and about making things work. I guess we did serve our purpose.

"I'm leaving the family." he said to me confidently. It took me to hear those words. It was like we all meant nothing to him, like we were as dispensable as his toilet paper. "Maybe I don't love you guys anymore." My mom claims that those words were said in anger, that he really didn't mean them, but the fact that he said them is already painful enough. It hurts us a lot, although I try not to show it. "I have your son to thank that I'm you, in all seriousness, is really something. You start to ask yourself: What did I do wrong? Why is he acting like this? Maybe it's my fault?

It makes sense, actually, in a way. Like you're such a nothing than your parent now before doesn't love you. That's when all the questioning starts, when you stop thinking straight and begin feeling ashamed—of yourself. I speak from experience when I say it's one of the worst feelings in the world. You can't explain where it's coming from. It's just... there. Something becomes invaded, others turn to vice: drinking, gambling, womanizing. Suicide kids get really drastic and they start to feel hate like they've never felt it before. This, I think, is what happened to me.

Before we found out about the second woman, I was living the whole life. I never got angry or anyone if I could help it. I always tried to involve myself with my words, instead of with my fists. I was a peacemaker, and I tried to be that all the time. I'm angry or my dad, for being what he is. I'm angry at my mom, for accepting my dad for what he is. I'm angry at the situation that my mom has no choice but to accept my dad for what he is: a lying, cheating, hurtful and deliberately manipulative person. I say "lying" because he deliberately made us believe he was different for more than a decade that she was "just a friend," when she was obviously more than that.

I remember confronting him about the relationship and him lying to my face. It hurt a lot. I say "hurtful" and "deliberately manipulative" because he did not stop seeing the woman the first time we found out. He only stopped when he got exposed, but he continued to see her on the side. My mom eventually found out about it, and they had this really big fight. Things were downhill from there, and that was when he said that he didn't love us anymore, that he wanted to leave the family. I was there when he said it. He was dead serious. Maybe it was the alcohol talking, maybe it was pride, he'd have walked out and done a disappearing act. But I think that might've been a lot better. At least my mom wouldn't be so miserable all the time.

Years, my dad still prefers. I'll be the first to admit that. He makes mistakes just like any other person. I just never saw him jumped into something like this. I just never saw him throw away my mom for what he did, as if it were her fault that he jumped into another woman's bed. I guess that is exactly the evil of the whole thing, that in spite of everything that he has done, he still refuses to take responsibility for his actions.

I don't think he even knows how much this is affecting the whole family. My sisters is haggard, my sister is emotional, and I'm very angry. That's the funny thing about infidelity: It hurts everybody, even those it wasn't intended to hurt, especially those it wasn't intended to hurt. My sister is only six years old—too young to be experiencing something like this. I'm twenty-one and I'm finding it hard to deal with the grown up. I can only hope that it won't be too serious, that it won't affect her for the rest of her life. I hope and pray for that every day.

Collateral damage—that's what she is. Collateral damage.

"He sounds sincere," my mom insists, a hopeful expression on her face. We've had this conversation a hundred times. It's true that my parents are trying to believe what she is saying, that my dad is really going to fix things in the family. I can only hope, for my sister's sake, that he means it this time around.

KC Ilo, 21, studies at the University of the Philippines in Diliman.

'Give Up Tomorrow'

At Large

Rina Jimenez-David

At 7:30 opens forum following the Philippine premiere of "Give Up Tomorrow" was winding down, a young man stood from his seat and made his way toward a microphone. Audience members taking a look at him gasped in recognition. "It's Jeffrey Welsh!" my companion whispered, and indeed it was one of the most famous ex-prisoners of recent times.

Welsh, for those who've forgotten, was imprisoned for 15 years on the false belief that he was involved along with five cohorts in the 1988 "Vizconde massacre," when a mother and her two daughters were killed in their Paranaque home. In 2010, the Supreme Court ruled with finality on the case, acquitting Welsh and his cohorts—and so, perhaps more than anyone else in the audience that day, Welsh could relate to what was about to be spending his own experience with the state of the Philippine justice system, including the role of media and politics. But he kept his opinions to himself.

"Tama ba ang hinala ko?" Welsh began, embarking to face Lauriaga whose struggle for justice and exoneration was the subject of the compelling documentary. Expressing appreciation for what the documentary makers were trying to do, he concluded: "The best defense is letting the world know what's been done to you."

It seemed a rather lame conclusion, especially after the rather subtly powerful exposition of "Give Up Tomorrow." But the roaring applause that accompanied Welsh as he made his way back to his seat showed that the audience felt the same: guilty not just for Welsh but also for Lauriaga, for anyone, for that matter, who ends up paying the price for a miscarriage of justice which takes place astonishingly frequently in this country.

FRIENDS from Cebu, even while the trial of Lauriaga and his cohorts was going on, contributed in being "sent" by the cause. Of course, they felt sympathy for Darlene and Ronnie Cheong, who lost their daughters Joy and Audrie, when they disappeared one rainy night in 1997.

But they also knew Imelda "Mel" Lavarias, mother of Paco, one of the most prominent

BUT as "Give Up Tomorrow" shows, sometimes, we may need to question. Even abandon this knee-jerk solidarity, even if we natural sympathies are for the underdog, and our instincts are to be swayed by what appears to be a misleading or injustice.

Director Michael Collins and producer Mary Jeniece (who was a distant relative by marriage to the Lauriagas) spent more than seven years working on the film, they first. "We were approached by the widow," Collins recalls of the time they decided to take on the project, referring to Jeanne Lauriaga at the Center for Culinary Arts (CCA) in Quezon City. Some of these classmates were able to testify that Paco was with them in class on the day of the crime, and remained phone to show that he was with them in a bar on the night the Cheong sisters disappeared. Ultimately, however, their testimony was disregarded.

"We were reading the opening handbook of the camera on the flight to Manila," the pair also confessed, adding that "this is the first time" of filmmakers' first project demanded. They would visit Manila the times in all, they recalled, conducting more than 100 interviews. They included Darlene Cheong, "who wanted to set her side," Jun and David Sutio, the "star witness" who claimed to have seen Paco and the Cheong sisters and turned state witness, although fellow detainees would) that he was tortured into testifying. "He searched for him everywhere and even went to his home in Bohol, but he seems to have disappeared," Tejero said.

• • •

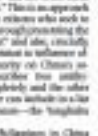
"GIVE UP Tomorrow" is taken from an interview with Paco who said that his main tactic of survival while in prison was living day to day, "worrying only about how I was going to survive that day." He told his compatriots, he said, to "live one day at a time," and recommends on living only for the moment.

It seems a most cruel existence, but I suppose it works for Paco, who to this day spends his days in a Spanish jail after winning retrials. Here, though he suffers, he says, he would be subject to the guilt. Dejanes said they recently received word that the Spanish courts were ready to waive this requirement.)

But ordinary Filipinos, who have set their store in this country, cannot find such comfort. With the justice system failing to provide the daily tribulations we are subject to. This is why "Give Up Tomorrow" left me weary and strangely depleted. The movie's themes may have been "plucked from the headlines," but they are closer to my shores to push to the back of my mind. It may be trouble me in more on and frustrate in this our country.

Can Manila influence Beijing?

Newsstand



John Nery

IT DOES not require any special access to realize that friends of China have already launched several attempts to try to moderate Hu Jintao's position on South China Sea issues, we live. After all, in a famously post-ism polity. But the question is: Are these similar attempts, or Manila's part, to influence the public agenda in Beijing?

The paradox of the new China is that it is both a closed regime and an open system. Traditional readings of the Chinese political framework, be-done liberals, orient in an important paper recently by the concept of "fragmented authoritarianism," neglect the reality that "although China remains authoritarian, it is nevertheless responsive to the increasingly diverse demands of Chinese society."

Bill Bishop pores responses to a concerted Philippine effort to prove the legitimacy of its South China Sea claims? Is it possible that Manila has another Ace there countervailing forces within China that might prove amenable to the Philippine view, and help influence official Chinese action?

Shaoguang Wang's proposed typology of an agenda-setting model at work in China seems to suggest that an opening might exist—especially if Medina's own research into unlikely "policy entrepreneurs" in China (to name three types, specifically officials on the bureaucratic periphery, journalists and nongovernment organization activists) is also taken into account.

Wang's model is an eminently based on the distinction between the public agenda ("issues that have achieved a high level of public interest and visibility in society") and the policy agenda ("issues under serious and active consideration by policy-makers"). It identifies the key models according to the level of participation in the setting of policy (officials, advisers, citizens) and the level of participation in creating public interest (low or high). The result is a classification scheme that includes "outside initiative" and "inside initiative" approaches; closed door and mobilization (when decisions makers initiate the agenda); inside access and outside-out (when advisers are the initiators); outside access and popular pressure (when the public initiates the initiative).

Wang gives many examples of the "outside initiative" or popular pressure, which "did not often come into own until the late 1990s." This is an approach increasingly open to Chinese citizens who seek to help set the policy agenda "through protesting the lack and mounting things out" and also, crucially, through mobilizing public opinion in the influence of leaders. (Martha, an authority on China's so-called inner tourists, describes two antiidiopower protests, one completely and the other partially successful, which we can include in a list of examples of popular pressure—the Tangshan and the Shifang incidents.)

But can friends of the Philippines in China credibly present the facts and reason things out in a way that will mobilize favorable Chinese public opinion? Steve Tsang's seminal work defining the post-Deng Xiaoping political system in China as "consultative Leninism" suggests the inherent difficulty of any such project.

Tsang identifies five distinctive characteristics of the consultative Leninist state: the Communist Party's unquestioned supremacy, which requires no democratic form of "majority in power"; ensuring reform within both Party and state "to preempt public demands for democratization," a "commitment to enhance" the Party's responsiveness to public opinion; deliberative "session rapid growth and economic development"; and "effective governance" (the fifth a result gaining in fall): "the promotion of a brand of nationalism that interprets a sense of national pride to a tightly guarded version of China's history and its civilization with the greatness of the People's Republic under the leadership of the Party."

In the new China's revisionist account of the first half millennium of its history, the Middle Kingdom's self-satisfied withdrawal from the world after the voyages of Zheng He has become a key element in the Party's claim to legitimacy. Zheng He's seven ocean-going expeditions, which "did not often come into own until the late 1990s." This is an approach increasingly open to Chinese citizens who seek to help set the policy agenda "through protesting the lack and mounting things out" and also, crucially, through mobilizing public opinion in the influence of leaders. (Martha, an authority on China's so-called inner tourists, describes two antiidiopower protests, one completely and the other partially successful, which we can include in a list of examples of popular pressure—the Tangshan and the Shifang incidents.)

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They Said

Edsa baby

"I am probably the first Edsa baby to run for the House! I hope to represent the interests of our generation."

—Bicol delegate "Bam" Aquino III in caucus campaign, emphasizing that he had obtained the go-signal of his cousin, President Aquino, to run a caucus seat in the 2013 elections

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Double whammy for poor Juan

THERE WILL be higher Metro Mile this month. Therefore, I'm VEXED.

Media have been painting a rosy picture of our economy under the Aquino administration. But this has spawned numerous gimmicks to set her by overhead projector.

Look at the increase in the prices of basic commodities, not to mention other goods and services. And true, market forces—in the present case, rice despite their being already the highest in Asia, adding to the already heavy burden on the shoulders of the poor, happier and long-suffering Juan de la Cruz. After over years of this administration, nothing is being done by the government to lessen this burden but to give it lip service. No wonder foreign direct investments are slow to come in.

I fully agree with Romeo Jasmin ("PBB loan for elders, hardly good for consumers?" 7/13/11, p. 11/11/11). He said: "Since the (Performance Based Regulation) was adopted, Meralco's net earnings have soared: year over year: P5.1 billion in 2008; P6.3 billion in 2009; P10.1 billion in 2010; P13.8 billion in 2011. For the past 36 months, Meralco's net income has grown by 1 percent; under by 11 percent. Its net earnings soared by 62 percent—which obviously stems from rate increases rather than Meralco growth or operational efficiency."

It is in the public's interest that Meralco, being a public utility, should lower its electric rates. Why can't Meralco at least return half of its net earnings in 2011 in projects that can help reduce the price of electricity? Or is it already committed to blame the sudden oil by major stockholders? If other Brazilian Asian countries can provide electricity at reduced rates, why can't the Philippines? Or do we want to remain "the biggest oil Asia"? Aren't we subsidized of ourselves? So wonder foreign direct investments are slow in coming.

I find it interesting as well that in the billing details of a typical Meralco bill there is that item on "System Loss Charge." With this "recoverable" item, the simple question 101 I wrote in school class would come to mind is: "Why would I take pains to go after those sending electricity (e.g., use of jumpers, etc.), after all, I can charge system loss to consumers?" I, Meralco's would-be cashier on hand and relax, smoke my stogies and laugh all the way to the bank.

This one really takes the cake. Is "system loss charge" subject to value added tax (VAT)? Take a look at your bill under the term "Value Added Tax." All I know is that except for some exemptions, all sales of goods and services are subject to VAT. But is "system loss charge" considered a sale of a good or service to the consumer? How can that be? Why then is Meralco billing the consumer for "system loss"? And why is this VAT subjected to vat? Time, not only to the consumer being charged for "system loss" by Meralco, also true "system loss charge" (neither a sale or a service) is subjected to VAT, which is again passed on to hapi thirsty consumer for good Juan!

—EDUARDO L. BUÑAG, Iunag@yahoo.com

A CLUSTER of electric meters in a Quezon City urban poor community

HUC status welcome news for Cabanatuan residents

THERE is a mistake in the latest item, "Cabanatuan seen a highly urbanized city" (Inquirer, 7/16/11).

It is not the latest item for Cabanatuan than President Aquino has signed and has approved the conversion of Cabanatuan City to as a highly urbanized city (HUC).

In Presidential No. 414 dated July 8, 2011, President Aquino said that he signed the HUC conversion requirements of 200,000 residents and an annual income of P50 million. "Cabanatuan is qualified to upgrade its status from a component city to a highly urbanized city," the President also said. It is the declared policy of the government to support local governments' initiatives to decentralize development as well. Hence, the immediate and immediate effective payments in the attainment of national goals."

The same proclamation has deemed valid waiver on the prior submission of the said HUC ruling that Cabanatuan is not yet ready to become an HUC or component city. Hence, the said resolution is now effective and is a clear mandate of the law. All hail this is a welcome news. All hail this is a welcome news. All hail this is a welcome news

Across the NATION

₱200,000 reward up for info on ex-tourism exec's attackers

CAMP PACSAG1 SEJAL, Laguna—The Laguna provincial government has raised the reward money for information that could help identify the attackers of former Philippine Tourism Authority chief Nimi Chua.

Senior Supt. Gilbert Cruz, Laguna police director and head of Task Force Nimi, said by phone Monday that Laguna Gov. Jeorge "ER" Ejercito has raised the reward money from ₱100,000 to ₱200,000.

Four unidentified men shot Kua in the face while he and his daughters were about to enter his brother's house in Ayala Greenfield Subdivision in Barangay Mamatong, Calamba City on Saturday evening. The attackers fled with the daughter's bag containing ₱80,000 in cash meant to pay construction workers of the house that Kua was building in the same subdivision.

Mlyeon, Kua's younger brother, who came out of the house, was also shot in the shoulder.

At the Calamba Doctors' Hospital, doctors declared Kua, a retired cabinet official, "brain dead."

"He's still in the ICU (intensive care unit) but doctors this morning (Monday) declared him brain dead," said Milo dela Cruz, a close friend of Kua.

Milo believed the attack was planned by persons who knew that Carmen enjoying a lot of money.

One said two of the construction workers hired by Kua went missing after the incident but they were yet to be tagged as suspects in the case.

Darla Cruz, valet was with Kua's family at the Calamba Medical Center where the victim was brought, affirmed that Kua was shot in the face and that the single bullet entered just below one of his eyes and hit his brain.

"It's a 50-50 (chance of survival)," he added.

"He's fighting for his life," Darla Cruz said of his friend.

Darla Cruz, valet has known Kua for more than 15 years, believed the attack was "purely robbery."

Aside from the ₱80,000 cash contained in the bag of Kua's daughter, the robbers also took many three cellphones.—Manuel, Ramos and Ina Andres—as well as the color the family had brought with them, Doña Cruz said.

The Laguna police on Monday released the names of three of the four suspects as John Ray Cortez, Darwin Sanchez and Noel Garcia, who were all residents of Barangay Mamatong where the subdivision is located.

Cruz said Kua's wife and daughters identified the suspects, who were also involved in previous cases of theft, from the police rogues' gallery.

Marlene Cinco, Inquirer Southern Luzon

Floods cause class suspension in 2 provinces

ECHOES OF CHILDREN and their parents wade through floods in Dilimán, Bulacan, after their classes were suspended due to heavy rains that triggered the flooding in the coastal towns on Friday. ALEXIS CAMSEN / INQUIRER NORTHERN LUZON

CITY OF MALOLOS—Officials in 12 towns and two cities in Bulacan suspended classes in all levels on Monday due to floods following heavy rains in the last three days.

Reports from the provincial disaster risk reduction and management council (PDRRMC) in Bulacan said while rains were intermittent on Monday, classes in elementary and high schools and colleges in Bulakan, Bulacan, Bustos, Guiguinto, Hagonoy, Pandi, Plaridel, Marilao, Meycauayan, Norzagaray, Obando, Pulilan, San Miguel and San Ildefonso were and in the cities of Malolos and Meycauayan were suspended due to floods rising to about 3 feet.

Evacuation

In Pulilan town, 21 families, composed of more than 70 people, in Barangay Tibag were evacuated to their village chapel on Sunday after their houses were submerged in floodwater when water in an irrigation canal there overflowed.

Officials of the National Irrigation Authority (NIA) ordered the release of water from Bustos Dam on Saturday when the reservoir level reached 17.43 meters above sea level (masl). The dam's spilling level is 17.70 masl.

NIA continued releasing water on Monday even as the water level at the Bustos reservoir dropped to 17.32 masl.

Inundated river

Salvacion Mangaoil, chief of the Bulacan PDRRMC, said the Angat River in Doña Remedios Trinidad (DRT) town, which feeds the Bustos reservoir, overflowed due to strong rains.

Mangaoil said the provincial government needs to build a new dam since the Angat River to help contain the water flowing into the Bustos reservoir downstream and prevent severe flooding.

Water level at Ipo Dam on Monday was 180.36 masl, which was below its spilling level of 101 masl, while the Angat Dam's level of 200.81 masl was still below its 212 masl spilling level.

Pampanga

In Pampanga, PDRRMC reports said at least 19 villages in Guagua, Apalit, Macabebe and Masantol towns were flooded on Monday.

Josefina Tinsayao, chief of the Office of Civil Defense in Central Luzon, said the mayors of Candaba, Mexico, San Simon and Sta. Ana town and Angeles City also suspended classes in public and private elementary schools due to heavy rains and floods.

Benjamin Ramos, head of the disaster risk reduction and management council of San Simon town, said the body of Noel Tuazon, 13, who drowned on Saturday, was recovered in the Pampanga River in Barangay San Pedro on Monday. Reports from Carmela Reyes-Ednave and Tonette Orejas, Inquirer Central Luzon

107 rescued from sinking vessel off Tawi-Tawi

ZAMBOANGA CITY—The Philippine Navy yesterday said it rescued 107 people from a sinking ferry west of Sibutu Island in Tawi-Tawi on Sunday evening.

Ensign Ian Sayan, spokesperson of the Naval Forces in Western Mindanao, said the Naval Task Force 62 stationed in Pangdiwa Sigalo in Tawi-Tawi received a report around 6:45 p.m. Sunday, which indicated that MV Lucky Mae was sinking.

The motor launch was on its way to Sibutu Island from Bongao when it was battered by huge waves, Sayan said.

He said that immediately, the Navy sent two BRP Dimasalang and found the sinking vessel about five nautical miles from Sibutu. Big waves, he said, were still battering the vessel when they personnel arrived.

Lt. Arthur Angue, BRP Dimasalang commanding officer, told the location by phone that the condition of the sea made the rescue operations more daunting.

Panic

"Most of the passengers were in a state of panic when we arrived in the area at around 7 p.m. MV Lucky Mae was already half submerged and many had flocked to one side of the vessel," he said.

Angue said many passengers climbed onto the roof of the vessel hoping to be rescued, while others jumped into the water.

He said some passengers were crushed to the ferry ship after they suffered minor injuries.

Rear Adm. Armando Gorospe, commander of Naval Forces in Western Mindanao, said a number of vessels had capsized in the turbulent seas near Sulu, Basilan and Tawi-Tawi since January this year.

But he said the Navy was always there to rescue stranded passengers.

This year alone, the Navy has rescued 414 persons from sea vessels that encountered problems at sea, he said.—Jaime L. Aquirin, Inquirer Mindanao

Fear of armed group stalks 'lumad' evacuees

MALAYBALAY CITY—Four months after he found "lumad" residents of Barangay Dao in San Fernando, Bukidnon, flees when they fled more than two months ago.

The 35 Manobo families, who belong to the Pantaron side of conflicting claims over ancestral domain and protected mining areas, had put up makeshift tents outside the provincial capitol compound here and have been urging officials to arrest the main suspect in the killing of their barangay chief, Datu Ugmad.

Ugmayon was shot dead outside of his house on March 3 in front of his children.

The suspect, Alde Salusad, had fled.

His family said the motive for the killing was to silence Ugmayon because he was against large-scale mining operations in the barangay.

Randy one of Ugmayon's children, told the Inquirer that he had heard Salusad declaring that he shot his father "because he refused to agree with the announced decision of the Barangay Macapanig, Malitgang, Tigwasanon, Manobo Tribal Datu Association (Datusanlido)."

Salusad is a former communist rebel who became a militiaman after surrendering and he belongs to the Datusanlido group.

Sharon, Ugmayon's wife, said her husband had been opposing Datusanlido's claim over a 22,000-hectare land area in Dao and argued that the area belongs to the Lumayan clan.

Inay Gregorio Ardigado, San Fernando police chief, said a warrant of arrest had long been issued against Salusad. "He belongs to a big group and they are armed. I don't want to put the lives of my men unless we have a bigger team to have Salusad down," Ardigado said.

Bukidnon Vice Gov. Jose Ma. Zubiri said on Wednesday that he had sent a negotiator to persuade Salusad to yield. "I even offered to take Salusad under custody so that the evacuees can go home," he said.

Leah Tamindang, secretary-general of Bangalingaya Sa-anira Ti Appocandong Lumad-ang Organo or Kasilo (Right to Self-Determination and Autonomy Council), said the 35 families have been running out of food and water.

She said many of the evacuees slip inside to they could live through the next day.

All evacuees, who requested to be identified as Marlyn, said their children have started to get sick because of exposure to cruelous weather and unfavorable conditions inside the tents.

"But I prefer living here these days because it is safer. We won't return unless the peaceful meetings we are arranged. If they really killed our village chief, they can also kill us anytime," she said.

In Midsalip, Zamboanga del Sur, police said they were trying to prevent a tribal war after the leader of a Blaan community was shot dead on Friday.

Senior Insp. Charlie Mores, Midsalip police chief, said they wanted to immediately determine the identity and motive of the two motorcycle-riding gunmen, who shot dead Datu Calbo Lolo inside his house in Barangay Gukasalab on Friday evening. Mores said Lolo's relatives might take revenge, which could worsen the situation. Grace Albacin with a report from Orlando Dinoy, Inquirer Mindanao

DISPLACED residents of Barangay Dao in San Fernando town in Bukidnon have sought refuge in front of the Provincial Capitol Building in Malaybalay City. They fled from their homes after their barangay captain was slain in March this year. LEAH TAMINDANG / CONTRIBUTOR

Jordanian journalist, 2 Pinoy crewmen, seen alive on video

ZAMBOANGA CITY—Jordanian journalist Baker Abdulla Atyani and his two Filipino companions—Ramelito Verla and Reinaldo Lemosa—remain alive as the Abu Sayyaf may be holding them, where they were being held since June 12, sources said yesterday.

In fact, a video showing the foreign journalist was sent out by the Islamic group.

Rommel Banlaoi, executive director of the Philippine Institute for Peace, Violence and Terrorism Research (PIPVTR), said a video he saw over the weekend, which he described as very short, shows Atyani talking to an unidentified man.

He said the Jordanian appeared thin.

"I had a chance to see the video footage, it was very short and he was just talking to somebody about the history of Muslims in the Philippines. But I don't know the exact date the video was taken," Banlaoi said.

A government source, who requested anonymity for lack of authority to speak on the matter, said Atyani's video was taken last month and was given to authorities. He would not identify the source of the video or to whom it was handed.

But police authorities said they have not seen the video. "So far, we haven't seen any video related to Atyani," Chief Supt. Mario Sosmeña, chief of police of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, said.

"We still have to verify that report," said Chief Supt. Manuel Barrera, head of the Directorate for Integrated Police Operations (Dipo) in Western Mindanao.

Dipo Director Mirasol has handle all kidnapping cases in Mindanao.

Prof. Octavio Dinampo, coordinator of the Basilan Consortium for Unity, said his sources had reported that Atyani and the two Filipinos were supposed to have been freed before July 21.

However, the consortium source was having a hard time reaching the last of Basilanon Abu, the Abu Sayyaf leader holding the three men, because of insufficient presence in the area.

"The sources was now trying to discuss the place of the drop point," he said.

Dinampo reports said the families were asking P50 million for Atyani's freedom but these have not been verified. Julie C. Alipala, Inquirer Mindanao

Atyani and the 2 Filipinos were supposed to have been freed before July 21

ATYANI in a photo taken June 11, 2012 in Jolo, Sulu.

Editor Teddyboy S. Molavedera
Assistant Editor Francis T. J. Chiong

SPORTS

Tight UAAP race looms; UST cager earns POW

By Jazmine M. Paye

IF THE first week is any indication, the UAAP men's basketball tournament this season will be a tight race.

Just when many picked four-time champion dynasties and host National University as title contenders, both squads have already stumbled their first loss early in the season.

But Eastern University came out as the only unbeaten squad, yet its first two triumphs were also far from convincing.

"We could have been at 0-2 right now," NU coach Boy Pineda said of his Bulldogs, who won their first two assignments by just an average of 1.5 points.

"Lahat naroon (We were just lucky). We still have a lot of things to work on, like our defense and rebounding."

Ateneo also came in hot for a fifth straight championship off to a rough start as the Blue Eagles, in a surprise meltdown, blew a 10-point lead and took a 71-79 tar from University of Santo Tomas.

"I reminded the players that our offense may be up and down, but our defense should be consistent," coach Norman Black said after the Blue Eagles drew their wounded with an 80-66 rout of the Bulldogs.

"Whenever we go out in a game, we just have to focus on our defense just in case our offense isn't clicking."

The Tamaraws grabbed the solo lead at 2-0 after their comeback, followed by Ateneo and La Salle with similar 2-1 records.

The Bulldogs, tagged among the favorites after winning nineteen mes, wound up tied with the Tigers at 1-1.

Meanwhile, UST forward Alyn Montano bagged the UAAP Press Corps Player of the Week award after starting in the biggest upset yet of the tournament.

Montano, who sat out last year due to a fractured right ankle, unloaded 21 points and grabbed 13 rebounds in the Tigers' surprise win.

"When it came back, I really wanted to make a strong impact," said the 6-foot-2 Montano, who scored the most points by a UST freshman scoring the collegiate best and Aaron Lim.

Montano edged other top performers for the week including FEU's Terrence Romeo, Ateneo's Nico Salva, NU's Jhaz Datu-Intal as Salle's Jerard Tang.

SAN SEBASTIAN'S Calvin Abueva blocks Ateneo's Ryonze Zamora. AUGUST DELA CRUZ

Bombers nip Altas; Stags edge Pirates

By Cedrik P. Tupas

A FLURRY of triples from downfield fractured in the final period propelled Sally Schoolcraft past the short-handed Lyceum Pirates, 67-79, last night as the Stags gained a tie for the lead in the 88th NCAA basketball tournament at Filoil Flying V Arena in San Juan.

The 6-foot-2 Bernal notched a season-high 31 points, including three straight triples midway in the fourth quarter that sent the Stags on their way to a fourth straight victory against a lone defeat.

Jose Bleed O later forged a three-team tie at the top with the Stags and the elite San Beda Lions after the Bombers stopped the Perpetual Help Altas, 64-59.

Alex Alvarado and Mats Marcos secured top with 12 points each as the Bombers showed resurgence down the stretch by limiting back-to-back losses 79-101 hearing to the Stags in suffering a second-loss recordings on the Altas.

Yuri saves struggling with out-of-bounds, but we made up for it with our defense," said Bombers coach Bregel Mendoza. "The same can be to the last game, but we were able to address that this time."

Bernal ended four of six triples to the opening quarter three seven-point, hitting just one of nine shots from beyond the arc, until his fourth quarter explosion that led him a 6-0 (7) deficit into a 70-67 (7) JRU advantage heading into the last 6:36.

"I'd rather see him take than not shoot at all," said San Sebastian coach Egay Bobiseca of Bernal, who made a season-high eight triples in 23 attempts. "I was telling him to keep on shooting. He's been working on his shots. If he doesn't shoot, I can't utilize him."

See full story at INQUIRER.net

Cone warns of Llamados blowing top

By Mhaong R. Castillo

ILIMEX coach Tim Cone walked into the press room Sunday night looking like he didn't know what hit him and his Llamados.

The firebrand coach knew his top to Game 1 of the PBA Governors' Cup Finals with Ratio at Blake, and was in a loss for words following the unexpected 93-80 rout from the Master Painters.

"The physicality was gone out there and one guy was being threatened," Cone said matter-of-fact. "I don't know what's going on, Cone said that "only the tough guys will play" after downing Barangay Ginebra in a knockout match to advance to the best-of-seven title series.

"Some of our guys are being hit on the testicles and I mind telling the sub but it fell on deaf ears," he said. "I made a mistake. Let throwing a chair into the playing court. I can't get tired of pleading.

"It's not thing to be strong and physical and it's another thing if you give an elbow," Cone said before going a warning. "I'm trying hard to keep (my players') temper in check, but I can only do so much. The refs have to help us out."

Cone added that he was going to call the attention of commissioner Chito Salud, whose office requested yesterday by issuing a statement that said that it was working with the way play was called in Game 1.

"The level of physical contact that has been allowed and disallowed remains within the parameters set by the league," Salud said in a text message to INQUIRER.net.

Paraguya nips Bitoon, gains share of lead

GRANDMASTER Mark Paraguya downed GM Richard Bitoon yesterday to snatch international Master Oliver Dimakiling on round two of the BDO Bank of Commerce-Inquirer Training Center in Makati, Aklan.

Paraguya, who also toppled GM Richard Salvador on Sunday, raised his score to 10.5 points after 12 rounds, matching the output of IM Dimakiling, who drew with IM Emmanuel Rosario in the 12th round after beating National Master Clarence Mejia in the 11th.

With just three rounds to go, Paraguya and Dimakiling only need to draw their remaining matches to tap two of three Chess Olympiad berths at stake in the men's division.

GM Darwin Laylo also boosted his chances with 15.5 points following a victory over Fide Master Oliver Barbosa.

IM Jayson Gonzales Sadorra split the point with GM Oliver Barbosa and stayed in the hunt with 14.5 points, half point ahead of GMs Rogelio Antonio and Eugenio Torre.

Premier International Master Catherine Secretario passed the distaff side with 7.5 points, leaving Woman International Master Cindy Mae Pruyias with 7.5 and Arabes Jocelyn (7-4.5).

PBA: Stop the savagery, please

BARE EYE

Marcelo Fernandez

THE OPENING game of the PBA Governors Cup Finals on Sunday was complete with all the ingredients. It was no-frills, exciting, colorful, and many more.

It was extremely physical, rugged and rough.

It had more than its share of the so-called fireworks.

It also resulted a sudden point where Tim Cone landed a chair on the playing floor.

Cone vehemently protested a non-call on the hard-driving Junmar Fajo.

The B-Meg coach was slapped a technical and was ejected.

Of course, it was not only that nonsmall which got Cone's goat.

He watched the brooding point after his team was practically left on the receiving end of a barrelling, battering offensive.

The bringing and the shoving were so rampant it was easy to suspect the officials could also be participating in say can for sheer as a rugby tournament.

Those referees, of course, could spot the slightest hint to touch obvious fight matches, although there was one frantic scuffle when an official was dragged down the floor as though he was working a sweet scented arm flight.

Explained coach Yeng Guiao of winner Rain or Shine: "I'm really proud of the way the boys handled the pressure and the way we played our defense in the second half."

Cone explained they were not fazed.

They, however, played tense and seemed in much of the second half.

Did they give up one of frustration?

"That's their style of play," Cone said. "But I'm afraid people might get hurt if you do that."

The league commissioner could look as Cone's comments maps.

He could take it as advice or a warning to both.

Cone said they will break down the videos and present it to the Commissioner.

Of course, it goes without saying Commissioner Chito Salud must do something quick.

Cone explained he had cited Salud as having his finger, frustrated players are also clutch.

"I can only do so much and the refs seem have got to help us out," he said.

Suggestion. The referees must be told to do their job and prevent the fists and feet from slipping into a savage form.

Conditioning, nutrition vital for Olympians

By Jaime Marzan

THE SUCCESS rate of the Philippines in the London Olympics hinges on a strict conditioning and nutrition program that the coaches have put in place.

Saying that money is no longer the problem, national Olympic chief Jose "Peping" Cojuangco Jr. noted the underscored the importance of these key elements for the 11 Filipino Olympians.

"I will maintain that these athletes would have been prepared better. It's not about money anymore, it's all about proper training," said Cojuangco.

To address the shortcomings in succeeding high-level tournaments, Cojuangco has hired Lothar Matthaus, a German fitness guru to supervise the national team in better shape.

Carlos Naimabeng, Cojuangco's nephew, has been tasked to whip up the national athletes into outstanding form beginning with the Southeast Asian Games in Myanmar next year.

Naimabeng said his team recently held a four-day workshop for coaches and local government and sports representatives.

Wesley tops Toronto International chess

FILIPINO Grandmaster Wesley So won the Crown Section of the 2012 Toronto International Chess Championship recently.

Living up to his top billing, the 18-year-old pride of Bacoor, Cavite, So finished with a total of six points on five wins and two draws. So, half point ahead of Canadian International Master IM Nikolay Sorbyan.

So, already assured of a berth in the Philippine team competing in the historical Chess Olympiad meeting next month, produced the top purse of $4,000 (about P168,000).

The Toronto International Chess Championship lured three GMs, five IMs and two Fide Masters from Canada, Lithuania, Iceland and the Philippines.

Canadian IMs Arthur Samorodin and Arthur Lalonge shared third to fifth places with Lithuanian GM Rosentalis following in at 4.5 points.

According to National Chess Federation of the Philippines president Prospero "Butch" Pichay, he is currently competing in the Quebec Open Chess Championship last top spot July 28 in Calbaga Brichard to Montreal, Canada.

After his Canadian tour, he will head to Idaho on University Junior for his full time collegiate study.

He will, however, be given a break to meet top board for the Philippines in Istanbul.

GEORGES O'Grady, CEO of the European Tour, and Hughes Lachaussée, Baron-Philippe managing director, and their partnership.

Mouton Cadet: Official wine supplier of the European Tour

IN HE WORLD'S leading Bordeaux AOC wine, Mouton Cadet, with its red blends available in 63 market of the European Tour's golf championships in 2012 after the company signed a new one-year deal in Asia to become the official supplier of wine to the Tour. Created in 1930 by the Baron Philippe de Rothschild S.A., Mouton Cadet has remained true to its origins. Aside from being the official wine supplier to the European Tour, Mouton Cadet is also the official wine of the Ryder Cup, golf's biggest cycling the Tour's flagship event, the recent Dubai Polo Championship, Senegal Olympic team and the Rothschild S.A. Mouton Cadet has remained native of the European Tour said. "Mouton Cadet is a truly exceptional brand that will enhance the world-class hospitality on offer at European Tour events."

Fil-Japanese judoka a joy for PH Olympians

LONDON—Wearing the national jersey in morning two pinned the Athletes' Village, Jeydrick Hontiveros Hordoza stowed down to wave and smile at a group of Japanese athletes heading out of the village during half.

The Filipino-Japanese athlete did the same to anyone he met as he made his way to the area where he stays after a 40-minute jog, something that's awakening him on his anniversary in the Philippine room to the 30th Olympic Games here.

That's Hordoza—friendly, accommodating and exuding youthful exuberance.

And it's humor enough to say. Intriguing why he's wearing the Philippine uniform in his first foray to the world's biggest sporting spectacle in a chair over breakfast, the 23-

years-old Hordoza admitted he experienced the Philippines in the qualifiers leading to the London Games because his late mom chances of making it than competing in Japan where good, tough judokas abound.

"Small chance in Japan," Hordoza said in halting English. "There (in the Philippines) it's easy."

So problem with that since Hordoza can represent either Japan or the Philippines in the Olympics or any other international tournaments since he carries a dual citizenship.

For sure, his mother is Vilma Aldana, a native of Malolos, Bulacan

working in an American base in Japan, and married to a Japanese serviceman who died when Hordoza was only 13.

When not grappling with opponents in the mats, Hordoza stays at the Oceania Five and where he watches physical education in a bustling high school, earning top grades (3.500 is the score).

That's the same school where he met his girlfriend, a judoka like himself, whom he's been with for almost the same time she was falling in love with Hordoza.

"I love judo. I love her. We both like judo," Hordoza said, helping himself to a fourth bowl of orange juice after a breakfast of fried eggs, hotdogs and bread.

His being easy to get along with, aside from those in his teammates and PH officials, a team which he said he probably inherited from his mother.

"She's nice and easy to get along," said Rose Herrera, the country's lone in the 50RO-meter run. "He has a steady smile for everybody."

That unbreakable smile also left weightlifting coach Tony Agustin speaking glowing words for Hordoza.

"Pilipinong Pilipino sa puso (He's truly a Filipino at heart)," said Agustin, adding he was touched to see Hordoza pull out a Philippine flag from his bag and display it in the balcony of his door at the Athletes' Village.

HOSHINO. 'Truly a Filipino'

Juvic ends up in 72nd spot, gets $17,399

LYTHAM ST ANNES, England—Filipino Juvic Pagunsan ended his campaign at The Open Championship with his worst round of five-over par 75 on Sunday but vowed to make a quick return to the world's oldest championship.

The reigning Asian Tour No. 1 dropped six bogeys and registered one lone birdie as

PAGUNSAN

Hoad Lytham and St Annes Royal Lytham for a total of 11-over par 291 in his maiden Major appearance.

With earlier rounds of 71-72-73, the first Filipino to finish a Major tournament wound up in a five-way tie for 72nd place and picked up $17,399 (about P715,000).

"Missed a couple of shots on the back nine. It's not the way that I wanted to finish the week," said Pagunsan.

"But overall, it's been really nice, a good experience to be here. I'll take many some good memories, one of the lucky ones who have played four rounds in this Major."

Pagunsan, who has expressed his dislike for long-distance travel, said he would be the first to put his name for the International Final Qualifying in date next year.

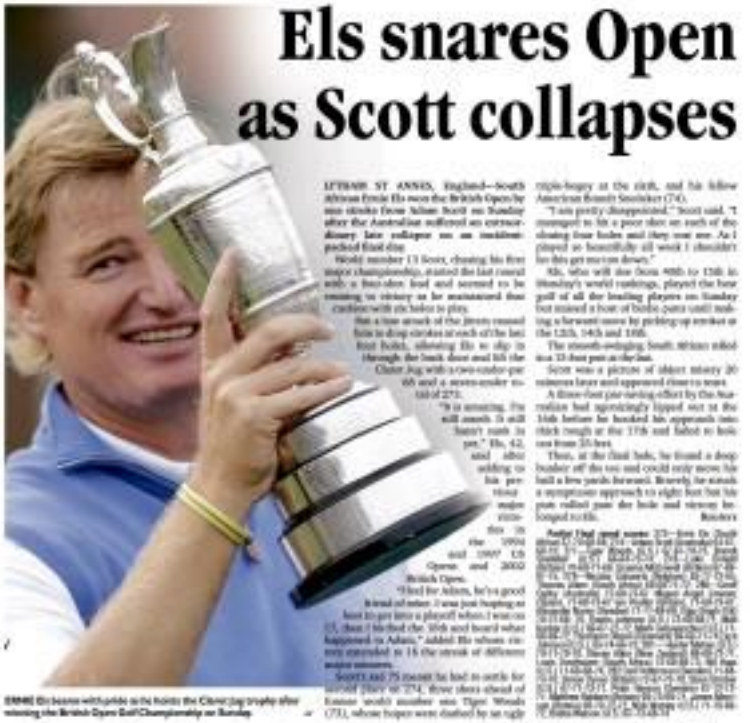
"I'll try again next year for sure. If there is no opportunity, I'll come. I wouldn't mind the travel to come here," said Pagunsan, the first Filipino to win the Asian Tour's Order of Merit last season.

He said he realized the need to sharpen his all-around game if he is to feature more prominently in the Majors.

"I need to focus more on my game if I am to be a part of them, the top players in the world. I need more practice, better focus and better course management.

"I played with Rickie (Fowler) today and I saw so many shots from him. He also gave me some good advice," he said. Asian Tour News

Els snares Open as Scott collapses


ERNIE Els leaves with pride as he hoists the Claret Jug trophy after winning the British Open Golf Championship on Sunday

LYTHAM ST ANNES, England—South African Ernie Els won the British Open by one stroke from Adam Scott on Sunday after the Australian suffered an extraordinary late collapse on an inadequately-paced final day.

World number 13 Scott, chasing his first major championship, started the last round with a four-shot lead and seemed to be cruising to victory as he maintained that cushion with six holes to play.

But a nine-strong of the pivotal round by a dropped shot at the last four holes, allowing Els to slip in through the back door and lift the Claret Jug with a two-under-par 68 and a seven-under total of 273.

"It is amazing. I'm still numb. It still hasn't sunk in yet," Els, 42, said after adding to his previous major victories in the 1994 and 1997 US Opens and 2002 British Open.

"I feel for Adam, he's a good friend of mine. I was just hoping at least to get into a playoff when I was on 15, then I finished the 16th and heard what happened to Adam," added Els whose victory extended to 18 the streak of different major winners.

Scott's last 75 meant he had to settle for second place on 274, three shots ahead of former world number one Tiger Woods (73), whose hopes were dashed by an ugly triple-bogey at the sixth, and his fellow American Brandt Snedeker (74).

"I am pretty disappointed," Scott said. "I managed to hit a poor shot on each of the closing four holes and they cost me. As I played so beautifully all week I shouldn't let this get me too down."

Els, who will rise from 40th to 15th in Monday's world rankings, played the best golf of all the leading players on Sunday but missed a host of birdie puts until making a farewell move by picking up strokes at the 12th, 14th and 15th.

The smooth-swinging South African added two 15-foot putts at the last.

Scott was a picture of silent misery 20 minutes later and appeared close to tears.

A three-foot par-saving effort by the Australian had agonizingly lipped out at the 16th before he bunkered his approach into thick rough at the 17th and failed to hole out from 10 feet.

Then, at the final hole, he found a deep bunker off the tee and could only move his ball a few yards forward. Bravely, he struck a scrupulous approach to eight feet but his putt rolled past the hole and viewers believed it's Reuters

Junior Golf cancel scores: 271—Ernie Els (South Africa) 68-68-68-67; 273—Adam Scott (Australia) 67-68-68-70; 274—Tiger Woods (US) 71-68-68-67; 275—Jason Dufner (US) 68-68-70-69, Graeme McDowell (Northern Ireland) 68-68-69-70, Hunter Mahan (US) 68-68-70-69, Phil Mickelson (US) 68-68-70-69; 276—Stephen Gallacher (Scotland) 71-68-68-69, Dustin Johnson (US) 68-68-70-70, Sergio Garcia (Spain) 68-68-70-70, Ian Poulter (England) 68-68-70-70, Marcel Siem (Germany) 68-68-70-70, Thomas Bjorn (Denmark) 68-68-70-70, Miguel Angel Jimenez (Spain) 68-68-70-70, Lee Westwood (England) 68-68-70-70; 277—Rickie Fowler (US) 68-68-71-70, Jim Furyk (US) 68-68-71-70, Peter Hanson (Sweden) 68-68-71-70, Martin Kaymer (Germany) 68-68-71-70, Matteo Manassero (Italy) 68-68-71-70, Justin Rose (England) 68-68-71-70, Brandt Snedeker (US) 68-68-71-70, Bubba Watson (US) 68-68-71-70, Oliver Wilson (England) 68-68-71-70; 278—Jamie Donaldson (Wales) 68-68-72-70, Simon Dyson (England) 68-68-72-70, Richard Green (Australia) 68-68-72-70, Padraig Harrington (Ireland) 68-68-72-70, Charl Schwartzel (South Africa) 68-68-72-70, Henrik Stenson (Sweden) 68-68-72-70, Robert Karlsson (Sweden) 68-68-73-70, Graeme Storm (England) 68-68-73-70, Jason Day (Australia) 68-68-74-70, Ryo Ishikawa (Japan) 68-68-74-70, Kyung-Tae Kim (South Korea) 68-68-74-70, Louis Oosthuizen (South Africa) 68-68-74-70, Jeev Milkha Singh (India) 68-68-74-70, Kevin Stadler (US) 68-68-74-70, Jonathan Byrd (US) 68-68-75-70, Paul Casey (England) 68-68-75-70, Nicolas Colsaerts (Belgium) 68-68-75-70, Luke Donald (England) 68-68-75-70, Fredrik Jacobson (Sweden) 68-68-75-70, Anders Hansen (Denmark) 68-68-76-70, Peter Lawrie (Ireland) 68-68-76-70, Rory McIlroy (Northern Ireland) 68-68-76-70, Francesco Molinari (Italy) 68-68-76-70, Ryan Moore (US) 68-68-76-70, Alexander Noren (Sweden) 68-68-76-70, Scott Piercy (US) 68-68-76-70, Jeff Quinney (US) 68-68-76-70, Justin Rose (England) 68-68-76-70, Brandt Snedeker (US) 68-68-76-70, Bubba Watson (US) 68-68-76-70, Oliver Wilson (England) 68-68-76-70; 279—Jamie Donaldson (Wales) 68-68-72-70, Simon Dyson (England) 68-68-72-70, Richard Green (Australia) 68-68-72-70, Padraig Harrington (Ireland) 68-68-72-70, Charl Schwartzel (South Africa) 68-68-72-70, Henrik Stenson (Sweden) 68-68-72-70, Robert Karlsson (Sweden) 68-68-73-70, Graeme Storm (England) 68-68-73-70, Jason Day (Australia) 68-68-74-70, Ryo Ishikawa (Japan) 68-68-74-70, Kyung-Tae Kim (South Korea) 68-68-74-70, Louis Oosthuizen (South Africa) 68-68-74-70, Jeev Milkha Singh (India) 68-68-74-70, Kevin Stadler (US) 68-68-74-70, Jonathan Byrd (US) 68-68-75-70, Paul Casey (England) 68-68-75-70, Nicolas Colsaerts (Belgium) 68-68-75-70, Luke Donald (England) 68-68-75-70, Fredrik Jacobson (Sweden) 68-68-75-70, Anders Hansen (Denmark) 68-68-76-70, Peter Lawrie (Ireland) 68-68-76-70, Rory McIlroy (Northern Ireland) 68-68-76-70, Francesco Molinari (Italy) 68-68-76-70, Ryan Moore (US) 68-68-76-70, Alexander Noren (Sweden) 68-68-76-70, Scott Piercy (US) 68-68-76-70, Jeff Quinney (US) 68-68-76-70, Justin Rose (England) 68-68-76-70, Brandt Snedeker (US) 68-68-76-70, Bubba Watson (US) 68-68-76-70, Oliver Wilson (England) 68-68-76-70; 280—Stephen Gallacher (Scotland) 71-68-68-69, Dustin Johnson (US) 68-68-70-70, Sergio Garcia (Spain) 68-68-70-70, Ian Poulter (England) 68-68-70-70, Marcel Siem (Germany) 68-68-70-70, Thomas Bjorn (Denmark) 68-68-70-70, Miguel Angel Jimenez (Spain) 68-68-70-70, Lee Westwood (England) 68-68-70-70; 281—Rickie Fowler (US) 68-68-71-70, Jim Furyk (US) 68-68-71-70, Peter Hanson (Sweden) 68-68-71-70, Martin Kaymer (Germany) 68-68-71-70, Matteo Manassero (Italy) 68-68-71-70, Justin Rose (England) 68-68-71-70, Brandt Snedeker (US) 68-68-71-70, Bubba Watson (US) 68-68-71-70, Oliver Wilson (England) 68-68-71-70; 282—Jamie Donaldson (Wales) 68-68-72-70, Simon Dyson (England) 68-68-72-70, Richard Green (Australia) 68-68-72-70, Padraig Harrington (Ireland) 68-68-72-70, Charl Schwartzel (South Africa) 68-68-72-70, Henrik Stenson (Sweden) 68-68-72-70, Robert Karlsson (Sweden) 68-68-73-70, Graeme Storm (England) 68-68-73-70, Jason Day (Australia) 68-68-74-70, Ryo Ishikawa (Japan) 68-68-74-70, Kyung-Tae Kim (South Korea) 68-68-74-70, Louis Oosthuizen (South Africa) 68-68-74-70, Jeev Milkha Singh (India) 68-68-74-70, Kevin Stadler (US) 68-68-74-70, Jonathan Byrd (US) 68-68-75-70, Paul Casey (England) 68-68-75-70, Nicolas Colsaerts (Belgium) 68-68-75-70, Luke Donald (England) 68-68-75-70, Fredrik Jacobson (Sweden) 68-68-75-70, Anders Hansen (Denmark) 68-68-76-70, Peter Lawrie (Ireland) 68-68-76-70, Rory McIlroy (Northern Ireland) 68-68-76-70, Francesco Molinari (Italy) 68-68-76-70, Ryan Moore (US) 68-68-76-70, Alexander Noren (Sweden) 68-68-76-70, Scott Piercy (US) 68-68-76-70, Jeff Quinney (US) 68-68-76-70, Justin Rose (England) 68-68-76-70, Brandt Snedeker (US) 68-68-76-70, Bubba Watson (US) 68-68-76-70, Oliver Wilson (England) 68-68-76-70; 283—Stephen Gallacher (Scotland) 71-68-68-69, Dustin Johnson (US) 68-68-70-70, Sergio Garcia (Spain) 68-68-70-70, Ian Poulter (England) 68-68-70-70, Marcel Siem (Germany) 68-68-70-70, Thomas Bjorn (Denmark) 68-68-70-70, Miguel Angel Jimenez (Spain) 68-68-70-70, Lee Westwood (England) 68-68-70-70; 284—Rickie Fowler (US) 68-68-71-70, Jim Furyk (US) 68-68-71-70, Peter Hanson (Sweden) 68-68-71-70, Martin Kaymer (Germany) 68-68-71-70, Matteo Manassero (Italy) 68-68-71-70, Justin Rose (England) 68-68-71-70, Brandt Snedeker (US) 68-68-71-70, Bubba Watson (US) 68-68-71-70, Oliver Wilson (England) 68-68-71-70; 285—Jamie Donaldson (Wales) 68-68-72-70, Simon Dyson (England) 68-68-72-70, Richard Green (Australia) 68-68-72-70, Padraig Harrington (Ireland) 68-68-72-70, Charl Schwartzel (South Africa) 68-68-72-70, Henrik Stenson (Sweden) 68-68-72-70, Robert Karlsson (Sweden) 68-68-73-70, Graeme Storm (England) 68-68-73-70, Jason Day (Australia) 68-68-74-70, Ryo Ishikawa (Japan) 68-68-74-70, Kyung-Tae Kim (South Korea) 68-68-74-70, Louis Oosthuizen (South Africa) 68-68-74-70, Jeev Milkha Singh (India) 68-68-74-70, Kevin Stadler (US) 68-68-74-70, Jonathan Byrd (US) 68-68-75-70, Paul Casey (England) 68-68-75-70, Nicolas Colsaerts (Belgium) 68-68-75-70, Luke Donald (England) 68-68-75-70, Fredrik Jacobson (Sweden) 68-68-75-70, Anders Hansen (Denmark) 68-68-76-70, Peter Lawrie (Ireland) 68-68-76-70, Rory McIlroy (Northern Ireland) 68-68-76-70, Francesco Molinari (Italy) 68-68-76-70, Ryan Moore (US) 68-68-76-70, Alexander Noren (Sweden) 68-68-76-70, Scott Piercy (US) 68-68-76-70, Jeff Quinney (US) 68-68-76-70, Justin Rose (England) 68-68-76-70, Brandt Snedeker (US) 68-68-76-70, Bubba Watson (US) 68-68-76-70, Oliver Wilson (England) 68-68-76-70; 286—Stephen Gallacher (Scotland) 71-68-68-69, Dustin Johnson (US) 68-68-70-70, Sergio Garcia (Spain) 68-68-70-70, Ian Poulter (England) 68-68-70-70, Marcel Siem (Germany) 68-68-70-70, Thomas Bjorn (Denmark) 68-68-70-70, Miguel Angel Jimenez (Spain) 68-68-70-70, Lee Westwood (England) 68-68-70-70; 287—Rickie Fowler (US) 68-68-71-70, Jim Furyk (US) 68-68-71-70, Peter Hanson (Sweden) 68-68-71-70, Martin Kaymer (Germany) 68-68-71-70, Matteo Manassero (Italy) 68-68-71-70, Justin Rose (England) 68-68-71-70, Brandt Snedeker (US) 68-68-71-70, Bubba Watson (US) 68-68-71-70, Oliver Wilson (England) 68-68-71-70; 288—Jamie Donaldson (Wales) 68-68-72-70, Simon Dyson (England) 68-68-72-70, Richard Green (Australia) 68-68-72-70, Padraig Harrington (Ireland) 68-68-72-70, Charl Schwartzel (South Africa) 68-68-72-70, Henrik Stenson (Sweden) 68-68-72-70, Robert Karlsson (Sweden) 68-68-73-70, Graeme Storm (England) 68-68-73-70, Jason Day (Australia) 68-68-74-70, Ryo Ishikawa (Japan) 68-68-74-70, Kyung-Tae Kim (South Korea) 68-68-74-70, Louis Oosthuizen (South Africa) 68-68-74-70, Jeev Milkha Singh (India) 68-68-74-70, Kevin Stadler (US) 68-68-74-70, Jonathan Byrd (US) 68-68-75-70, Paul Casey (England) 68-68-75-70, Nicolas Colsaerts (Belgium) 68-68-75-70, Luke Donald (England) 68-68-75-70, Fredrik Jacobson (Sweden) 68-68-75-70, Anders Hansen (Denmark) 68-68-76-70, Peter Lawrie (Ireland) 68-68-76-70, Rory McIlroy (Northern Ireland) 68-68-76-70, Francesco Molinari (Italy) 68-68-76-70, Ryan Moore (US) 68-68-76-70, Alexander Noren (Sweden) 68-68-76-70, Scott Piercy (US) 68-68-76-70, Jeff Quinney (US) 68-68-76-70, Justin Rose (England) 68-68-76-70, Brandt Snedeker (US) 68-68-76-70, Bubba Watson (US) 68-68-76-70, Oliver Wilson (England) 68-68-76-70; 289—Stephen Gallacher (Scotland) 71-68-68-69, Dustin Johnson (US) 68-68-70-70, Sergio Garcia (Spain) 68-68-70-70, Ian Poulter (England) 68-68-70-70, Marcel Siem (Germany) 68-68-70-70, Thomas Bjorn (Denmark) 68-68-70-70, Miguel Angel Jimenez (Spain) 68-68-70-70, Lee Westwood (England) 68-68-70-70; 290—Rickie Fowler (US) 68-68-71-70, Jim Furyk (US) 68-68-71-70, Peter Hanson (Sweden) 68-68-71-70, Martin Kaymer (Germany) 68-68-71-70, Matteo Manassero (Italy) 68-68-71-70, Justin Rose (England) 68-68-71-70, Brandt Snedeker (US) 68-68-71-70, Bubba Watson (US) 68-68-71-70, Oliver Wilson (England) 68-68-71-70; 291—Jamie Donaldson (Wales) 68-68-72-70, Simon Dyson (England) 68-68-72-70, Richard Green (Australia) 68-68-72-70, Padraig Harrington (Ireland) 68-68-72-70, Charl Schwartzel (South Africa) 68-68-72-70, Henrik Stenson (Sweden) 68-68-72-70, Robert Karlsson (Sweden) 68-68-73-70, Graeme Storm (England) 68-68-73-70, Jason Day (Australia) 68-68-74-70, Ryo Ishikawa (Japan) 68-68-74-70, Kyung-Tae Kim (South Korea) 68-68-74-70, Louis Oosthuizen (South Africa) 68-68-74-70, Jeev Milkha Singh (India) 68-68-74-70, Kevin Stadler (US) 68-68-74-70, Jonathan Byrd (US) 68-68-75-70, Paul Casey (England) 68-68-75-70, Nicolas Colsaerts (Belgium) 68-68-75-70, Luke Donald (England) 68-68-75-70, Fredrik Jacobson (Sweden) 68-68-75-70, Anders Hansen (Denmark) 68-68-76-70, Peter Lawrie (Ireland) 68-68-76-70, Rory McIlroy (Northern Ireland) 68-68-76-70, Francesco Molinari (Italy) 68-68-76-70, Ryan Moore (US) 68-68-76-70, Alexander Noren (Sweden) 68-68-76-70, Scott Piercy (US) 68-68-76-70, Jeff Quinney (US) 68-68-76-70, Justin Rose (England) 68-68-76-70, Brandt Snedeker (US) 68-68-76-70, Bubba Watson (US) 68-68-76-70, Oliver Wilson (England) 68-68-76-70; 292—Stephen Gallacher (Scotland) 71-68-68-69, Dustin Johnson (US) 68-68-70-70, Sergio Garcia (Spain) 68-68-70-70, Ian Poulter (England) 68-68-70-70, Marcel Siem (Germany) 68-68-70-70, Thomas Bjorn (Denmark) 68-68-70-70, Miguel Angel Jimenez (Spain) 68-68-70-70, Lee Westwood (England) 68-68-70-70; 293—Rickie Fowler (US) 68-68-71-70, Jim Furyk (US) 68-68-71-70, Peter Hanson (Sweden) 68-68-71-70, Martin Kaymer (Germany) 68-68-71-70, Matteo Manassero (Italy) 68-68-71-70, Justin Rose (England) 68-68-71-70, Brandt Snedeker (US) 68-68-71-70, Bubba Watson (US) 68-68-71-70, Oliver Wilson (England) 68-68-71-70; 294—Jamie Donaldson (Wales) 68-68-72-70, Simon Dyson (England) 68-68-72-70, Richard Green (Australia) 68-68-72-70, Padraig Harrington (Ireland) 68-68-72-70, Charl Schwartzel (South Africa) 68-68-72-70, Henrik Stenson (Sweden) 68-68-72-70, Robert Karlsson (Sweden) 68-68-73-70, Graeme Storm (England) 68-68-73-70, Jason Day (Australia) 68-68-74-70, Ryo Ishikawa (Japan) 68-68-74-70, Kyung-Tae Kim (South Korea) 68-68-74-70, Louis Oosthuizen (South Africa) 68-68-74-70, Jeev Milkha Singh (India) 68-68-74-70, Kevin Stadler (US) 68-68-74-70, Jonathan Byrd (US) 68-68-75-70, Paul Casey (England) 68-68-75-70, Nicolas Colsaerts (Belgium) 68-68-75-70, Luke Donald (England) 68-68-75-70, Fredrik Jacobson (Sweden) 68-68-75-70, Anders Hansen (Denmark) 68-68-76-70, Peter Lawrie (Ireland) 68-68-76-70, Rory McIlroy (Northern Ireland) 68-68-76-70, Francesco Molinari (Italy) 68-68-76-70, Ryan Moore (US) 68-68-76-70, Alexander Noren (Sweden) 68-68-76-70, Scott Piercy (US) 68-68-76-70, Jeff Quinney (US) 68-68-76-70, Justin Rose (England) 68-68-76-70, Brandt Snedeker (US) 68-68-76-70, Bubba Watson (US) 68-68-76-70, Oliver Wilson (England) 68-68-76-70; 295—Stephen Gallacher (Scotland) 71-68-68-69, Dustin Johnson (US) 68-68-70-70, Sergio Garcia (Spain) 68-68-70-70, Ian Poulter (England) 68-68-70-70, Marcel Siem (Germany) 68-68-70-70, Thomas Bjorn (Denmark) 68-68-70-70, Miguel Angel Jimenez (Spain) 68-68-70-70, Lee Westwood (England) 68-68-70-70; 296—Rickie Fowler (US) 68-68-71-70, Jim Furyk (US) 68-68-71-70, Peter Hanson (Sweden) 68-68-71-70, Martin Kaymer (Germany) 68-68-71-70, Matteo Manassero (Italy) 68-68-71-70, Justin Rose (England) 68-68-71-70, Brandt Snedeker (US) 68-68-71-70, Bubba Watson (US) 68-68-71-70, Oliver Wilson (England) 68-68-71-70; 297—Jamie Donaldson (Wales) 68-68-72-70, Simon Dyson (England) 68-68-72-70, Richard Green (Australia) 68-68-72-70, Padraig Harrington (Ireland) 68-68-72-70, Charl Schwartzel (South Africa) 68-68-72-70, Henrik Stenson (Sweden) 68-68-72-70, Robert Karlsson (Sweden) 68-68-73-70, Graeme Storm (England) 68-68-73-70, Jason Day (Australia) 68-68-74-70, Ryo Ishikawa (Japan) 68-68-74-70, Kyung-Tae Kim (South Korea) 68-68-74-70, Louis Oosthuizen (South Africa) 68-68-74-70, Jeev Milkha Singh (India) 68-68-74-70, Kevin Stadler (US) 68-68-74-70, Jonathan Byrd (US) 68-68-75-70, Paul Casey (England) 68-68-75-70, Nicolas Colsaerts (Belgium) 68-68-75-70, Luke Donald (England) 68-68-75-70, Fredrik Jacobson (Sweden) 68-68-75-70, Anders Hansen (Denmark) 68-68-76-70, Peter Lawrie (Ireland) 68-68-76-70, Rory McIlroy (Northern Ireland) 68-68-76-70, Francesco Molinari (Italy) 68-68-76-70, Ryan Moore (US) 68-68-76-70, Alexander Noren (Sweden) 68-68-76-70, Scott Piercy (US) 68-68-76-70, Jeff Quinney (US) 68-68-76-70, Justin Rose (England) 68-68-76-70, Brandt Snedeker (US) 68-68-76-70, Bubba Watson (US) 68-68-76-70, Oliver Wilson (England) 68-68-76-70; 298—Stephen Gallacher (Scotland) 71-68-68-69, Dustin Johnson (US) 68-68-70-70, Sergio Garcia (Spain) 68-68-70-70, Ian Poulter (England) 68-68-70-70, Marcel Siem (Germany) 68-68-70-70, Thomas Bjorn (Denmark) 68-68-70-70, Miguel Angel Jimenez (Spain) 68-68-70-70, Lee Westwood (England) 68-68-70-70; 299—Rickie Fowler (US) 68-68-71-70, Jim Furyk (US) 68-68-71-70, Peter Hanson (Sweden) 68-68-71-70, Martin Kaymer (Germany) 68-68-71-70, Matteo Manassero (Italy) 68-68-71-70, Justin Rose (England) 68-68-71-70, Brandt Snedeker (US) 68-68-71-70, Bubba Watson (US) 68-68-71-70, Oliver Wilson (England) 68-68-71-70; 300—Jamie Donaldson (Wales) 68-68-72-70, Simon Dyson (England) 68-68-72-70, Richard Green (Australia) 68-68-72-70, Padraig Harrington (Ireland) 68-68-72-70, Charl Schwartzel (South Africa) 68-68-72-70, Henrik Stenson (Sweden) 68-68-72-70, Robert Karlsson (Sweden) 68-68-73-70, Graeme Storm (England) 68-68-73-70, Jason Day (Australia) 68-68-74-70, Ryo Ishikawa (Japan) 68-68-74-70, Kyung-Tae Kim (South Korea) 68-68-74-70, Louis Oosthuizen (South Africa) 68-68-74-70, Jeev Milkha Singh (India) 68-68-74-70, Kevin Stadler (US) 68-68-74-70, Jonathan Byrd (US) 68-68-75-70, Paul Casey (England) 68-68-75-70, Nicolas Colsaerts (Belgium) 68-68-75-70, Luke Donald (England) 68-68-75-70, Fredrik Jacobson (Sweden) 68-68-75-70, Anders Hansen (Denmark) 68-68-76-70, Peter Lawrie (Ireland) 68-68-76-70, Rory McIlroy (Northern Ireland) 68-68-76-70, Francesco Molinari (Italy) 68-68-76-70, Ryan Moore (US) 68-68-76-70, Alexander Noren (Sweden) 68-68-76-70, Scott Piercy (US) 68-68-76-70, Jeff Quinney (US) 68-68-76-70, Justin Rose (England) 68-68-76-70, Brandt Snedeker (US) 68-68-76-70, Bubba Watson (US) 68-68-76-70, Oliver Wilson (England) 68-68-76-70; 301—Stephen Gallacher (Scotland) 71-68-68-69, Dustin Johnson (US) 68-68-70-70, Sergio Garcia (Spain) 68-68-70-70, Ian Poulter (England) 68-68-70-70, Marcel Siem (Germany) 68-68-70-70, Thomas Bjorn (Denmark) 68-68-70-70, Miguel Angel Jimenez (Spain) 68-68-70-70, Lee Westwood (England) 68-68-70-70; 302—Rickie Fowler (US) 68-68-71-70, Jim Furyk (US) 68-68-71-70, Peter Hanson (Sweden) 68-68-71-70, Martin Kaymer (Germany) 68-68-71-70, Matteo Manassero (Italy) 68-68-71-70, Justin Rose (England) 68-68-71-70, Brandt Snedeker (US) 68-68-71-70, Bubba Watson (US) 68-68-71-70, Oliver Wilson (England) 68-68-71-70; 303—Jamie Donaldson (Wales) 68-68-72-70, Simon Dyson (England) 68-68-72-70, Richard Green (Australia) 68-68-72-70, Padraig Harrington (Ireland) 68-68-72-70, Charl Schwartzel (South Africa) 68-68-72-70, Henrik Stenson (Sweden) 68-68-72-70, Robert Karlsson (Sweden) 68-68-73-70, Graeme Storm (England) 68-68-73-70, Jason Day (Australia) 68-68-74-70, Ryo Ishikawa (Japan) 68-68-74-70, Kyung-Tae Kim (South Korea) 68-68-74-70, Louis Oosthuizen (South Africa) 68-68-74-70, Jeev Milkha Singh (India) 68-68-74-70, Kevin Stadler (US) 68-68-74-70, Jonathan Byrd (US) 68-68-75-70, Paul Casey (England) 68-68-75-70, Nicolas Colsaerts (Belgium) 68-68-75-70, Luke Donald (England) 68-68-75-70, Fredrik Jacobson (Sweden) 68-68-75-70, Anders Hansen (Denmark) 68-68-76-70, Peter Lawrie (Ireland) 68-68-76-70, Rory McIlroy (Northern Ireland) 68-68-76-70, Francesco Molinari (Italy) 68-68-76-70, Ryan Moore (US) 68-68-76-70, Alexander Noren (Sweden) 68-68-76-70, Scott Piercy (US) 68-68-76-70, Jeff Quinney (US) 68-68-76-70, Justin Rose (England) 68-68-76-70, Brandt Snedeker (US) 68-68-76-70, Bubba Watson (US) 68-68-76-70, Oliver Wilson (England) 68-68-76-70; 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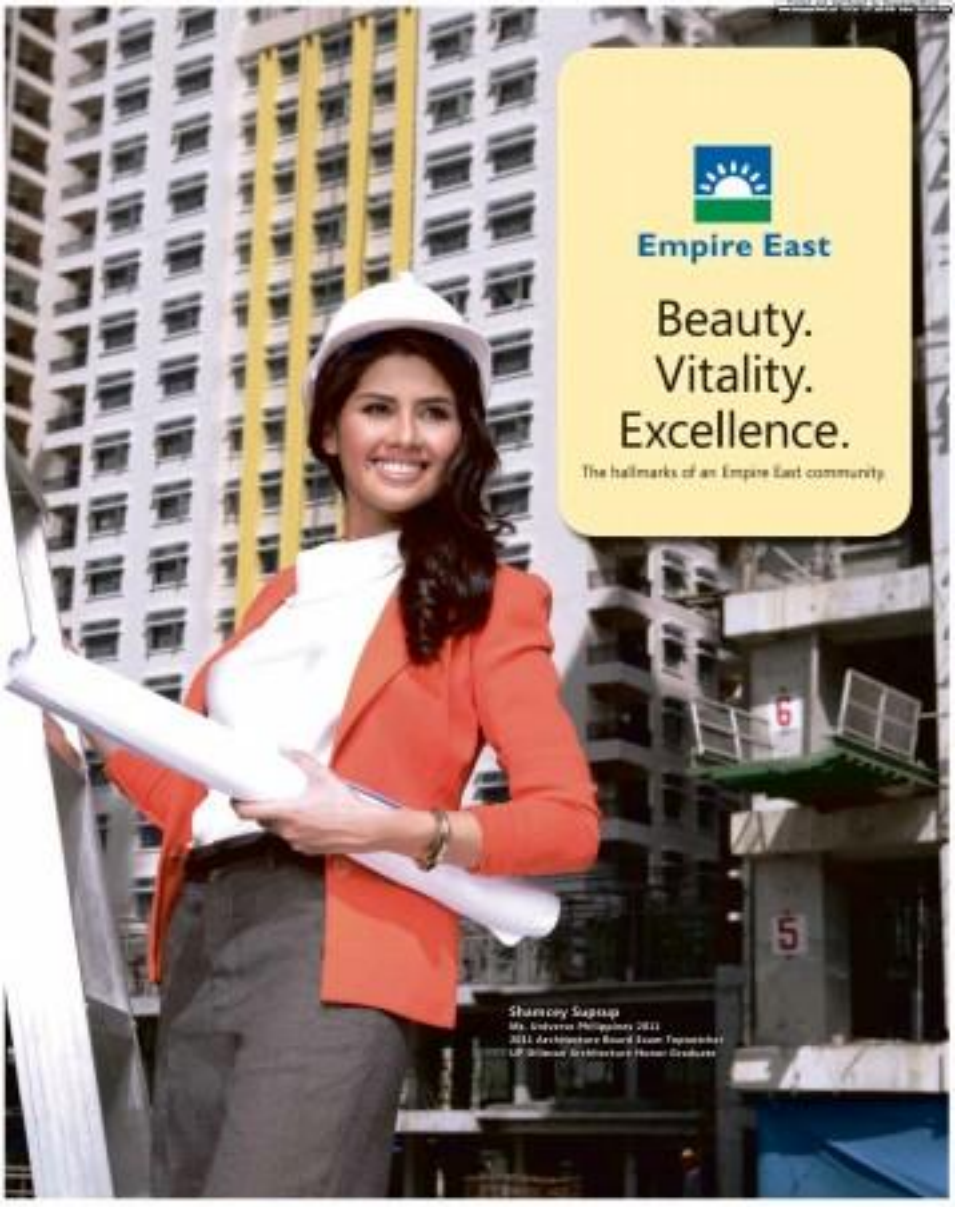

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DID YOU KNOW

RYAN UCM and Lani Lopez amused all comers in 12 out of the 72 Gods of the Rubix dimension in 10 Mins were delivered at the Batasang Pambansa in Quezon City. The villains were delivered at De Legislature Building in Manila; Laguna Greatrix Manila; Philippine International Convention Center; Pasay Park; Quezon Grandstand and Malacañang Palace. **Arnold Clavecilla, Jeanne Rosaroll**

ALERT DOCTOR CALLS POLICE

Baby's death blamed on dad

By Julie M. Aurelio

A 30-YEAR-OLD man who had asked a relative to bring his unconscious two-month-old baby to the hospital ended up behind bars after a doctor found injuries on the victim which led him to believe that the boy may have been strangled.

According to a police report, Darryll Gabao was rushed by his grandmother to JP Rizal Hospital in Bago Bantay, Quezon City, where he was declared dead on arrival on Sunday night.

However, a doctor who examined the baby found contusions and a broken clavicle, aside from an abrasion on the neck.

Based on his findings, the doctor called the police which took the boy's father, Mark Boyd Gabao, into custody, according to case investigator SPO1 Johnny Maldino of the Quezon City Police District.

In his defense, Gabao told the police that when he checked on his son who was lying in his crib beside their house at around 10 p.m. on Saturday, the baby allegedly began to be breathing, prompting him to ask the boy's grandmother to take the baby to the hospital.

Upon questioning, the grandmother pointed to Gabao as the one who had put the boy to sleep. At that time, Gabao's wife was at work on the boy was left in the care of his father who, according to the police, had apparently been drinking.

Charges of parricide are being prepared against Gabao, the police said.

Shooting rampage leaves man dead, 5 others wounded

By Nico Calleja

A JAPANESE man who had lost his wife and their all his money went on a shooting rampage in Manikina City and San Mateo, Rizal, on Sunday night, inspiring people who had to hunters, pa hunt the money they owed him.

The Manikina police eventually caught up with Rodolfoyo Mateo, 56, in his friend's house in Antipolo City yesterday but not before he killed his brother-in-law and wounded five other people, including a 4-year-old child.

Senior Supt. Gabriel Lopez, Manikina police chief, said that Mateo was charged with one count of murder and five counts of frustrated murder. Charges in the city prosecutor's office.

Based on police reports, Mateo was married to a Filipino woman who had left him shortly before their last company went bankrupt. To compound his problems, his brothers-in-law, Salvador Pontes, 50, and his wife's other relatives had refused to pay their debts to him.

"It was an act of revenge," Lopez said.

At around 8:30 p.m. on Sunday, Mateo went to Pontes's house in Mandaluyong City and shot him to the chest, killing him. He went

(ABAR A19)

COA: PLM hiked fees due to fund lack

By Lydia B. Salaverria and Jaymee T. Gamil

THE PAMANTASAN ng Lungsod ng Maynila (PLM) has approved an increase in tuition and other fees for this academic year due to its lack of funds, according to the Commission on Audit (COA).

In its 2011 report, the audit agency said that as of the end of last year, the Manila City government which owns the university still owed it P394.46 million in subsidies.

The quarterly subsidy of P78 million is the school's principal source of funding for its operations.

Last June, P18.3.89 million or 40.46 percent of PLM's total annual budget was not released, COA added. In 2010, the university failed to receive P78.972 million from the city government, it noted in its report.

As a result, the school was forced to put on hold its plan to improve its facilities, the audit agency said.

"[The] majority of its proposed projects for the improvement of school facilities as well as the procurement of necessary equipment, furniture and fixtures were deferred to the disadvantage of the students," it reported.

COA in its red PLM officials to talk to Manila Mayor Alfredo Lim about the lack of funding so that the city government would take action.

In response to last year's COA report, PLM officials said that they did their best to collect the city government's unpaid obligations to the university although they were not optimistic due to the reported shortfall in the city government's revenue collection.

They added that to keep the school open, they approved hikes in tuition, miscellaneous and other fees for their undergraduate, graduate and special programs.

Sought for reaction, PLM acting president and secretary to the mayor Rolando Gascillo declined that the school had approved a hike in tuition and other fees.

At the same time, he said that the release of the city government's subsidy was merely delayed although the school would be able to manage.

He also stressed that the city government had settled its 2011 obligations to the university and that for this year, it just owes the school P40 million, after it released P60 million out of the quarterly subsidy of P78 million.

Makati now a sin city

I RECEIVED several text messages about Nathan Day's column which was headlined, "Corrupt cops gets light treatment."

"Mabilang ay ang sabihin mo sa amin na ganyan. Maraming pang kulang sa mahirap na ito. Hindi lamat ito ang subject of your column today. You could've a lot of things about him," text one texter.

Another message reads, a high government official during the Cory Aquino administration, said, "In your column today why is it that any raided hotels or motels always your concerning it?"

But the most striking reaction I received came from a friend of the publication.

Said the publication's friend, whose identity I'm keeping secret: "Man, I read ur column today. U are absolutely correct about the politicians. I know him personally. He has a very good public image and is well-liked by his constituents. He's unlike to make a major booboo, he will be _____."

I told the friend of the politician that the public will eventually find out about what he has been up to.

That's to sure as the sun rises in the east and sets in the west.

It's like someone set incense down for a hot partner's infidelity because nobody dares to tell him, or her. But eventually, it will all be out in the open.

What did I say in Saturday's "On Target" column?

Basically, that the politician and his family are rich—filthy rich.

They are engaged in having real estate in the city where they rule. The family owns a big chunk of the city.

Understandably, developers and owners of business establishments complain that the family demands a cut or two before a condominium is built, apartment or business establishment is allowed opening a single canteen.

Makabayan bloc solon wants Makati City hall raided

Akbayan Rep. Walden Bello wants the Makati City hall raided by the Ombudsman for the alleged anomalous purchase of a helicopter by the city government.

Bello said the Ombudsman should look into the purchase of the helicopter by the Makati City government.

"The Ombudsman should look into the purchase of the helicopter by the Makati City government. The Ombudsman should raid the Makati City hall," Bello said.

Bello said the helicopter was purchased by the Makati City government for the use of Mayor Jejomar Binay.

"The helicopter was purchased for the use of Mayor Binay. It is a luxury that the people of Makati do not need," Bello said.

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Classes suspended in Malabon, Valenzuela schools

TWO CITIES in northern Metro Manila announced a suspension of classes after the heavy rains brought about by Tropical Storm "Fendo" caused flooding in some areas on Monday.

In Malabon, classes from pre-school to high school in both public and private schools were suspended by the local government because of odds to their deep waters in some areas of the city.

Bong Dalisay, chief public information officer, said Acting Mayor Jaime Lacson III made the decision due in anticipation of the high tide scheduled at 10 a.m.

As of 6:30 a.m., floodwaters in Rivers Street in Barangay Tinajeros and on Adante Street in Barangay Tanong reached 14 inches, according to a report from the city's Disaster Risk Reduction Management Office.

On Hagbahay Road, water levels in Barangay Panghulo, the water level reached 30 inches.

In Valenzuela, Abner Mejia, city public information officer, underscored said high school classes were suspended because of flooding.

Floodwaters on Mel Del Filar Street in Barangay Ilang was knee deep or 12 inches, according to Atty. Arnie del Rosario of Valenzuela City Rescue.

No casualty in the city had announced a suspension of classes is of press time, Mejia said. Cristina Salenga-Mangcoming

1 dead, 5 hurt

From page A-9

sent to the house of Orlando Carpio, 66, and Evangelina Abel, 56, who also saved him money and shot them, including JOAO, 6-year-old grandchild. They were later rushed to a hospital.

Not content, Ramos went to San Mateo, Rizal, where his ex-housemate, former employer, taxi driver Ronald Abejero and wife, Rinalo, were their debt to him. He also shot and wounded the couple and them fled to his friend's house in Antipolo City.

Mother needs help for 2-year-old Achilles

By Santiago B. Alvarez Jr.

ACHILLES Corpuz is running 2 on Aug. 2, yet he has finally grown.

His mother, Marianne Jovita, said doctors at the Philippine General Hospital told her that her son has to undergo a series of post-natal treatment, both to find out why he is underweight although he takes has a daily intake of formula milk.

Achilles also has difficulty breathing and turns blue when cries, he also, his mother added.

"The cancer say a single vessel, her cannot exert, he does not play at all. I have to carry him when even is asking because it [Achilles] is down, three hours is the maximum number of hours he can sleep so he wakes up right away," she said.

Jovie is requesting for financial assistance from kind-hearted Filipinos to help her realize because the multiple congenital anomaly of her son has also affected his vision and bone and brain development.

"I would like to bring him to a private hospital for close monitoring, as we cannot afford it here. His unit condition is, and if he needs an operation. Someone else as such he," said Jovie.

Achilles father is a pedicab driver who hardly earns enough for the family's needs.

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Those who would like to help her can send their donations to her BDO bank account number 4210000001792258.

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Confessed robber gets 4 years

A RMSC judge has sentenced a man who confessed to robbing a pharmacy in Quezon City seven months ago to four years in prison. Presiding Judge Maximo Maiden of the Manila Regional Trial Court Branch 10 recently found John Michael Escobar Ramirez guilty of robbing The Generics Pharmacy and ordered him to pay the more P11,000, including interest. It took only four months for the judge to hand down her decision. Ramirez admitted to the court that he was also the one who executed robberies in the pharmacy store and took cash and valuables worth around P11,000. He was subsequently arrested by the police in a joint patrol operation. The judge said that under the Revised Penal Code, a guilty plead is a "mitigating circumstance" which does not necessitate someone but reduces the penalty associated with the offense.

Alex Calleja

Housemaid shot dead in Manila

A 28-YEAR-OLD housemaid was shot to death by her employer who attacked after a late night quarrel over the pretrial they were eating in a restaurant in Manila. Manila Police District homicide section investigators said they were looking into the possibility that the killing may have something to do with the jam sessions at Princess Tenorio, a resident of Del Pan Street in Tondo, as a motive for political rallies. She was declared dead on arrival by doctors at Jose Reyes Memorial Medical Center in Tondo, as a result of gunshot wounds on the body of her employer, Tenorio. Police identified the suspect as Jose Ramos, 50, a resident of Del Pan Street in Tondo, as a motive for political rallies. She was declared dead on arrival by doctors at Jose Reyes Memorial Medical Center in Tondo, as a result of gunshot wounds on the body of her employer, Tenorio. Police identified the suspect as Jose Ramos, 50, a resident of Del Pan Street in Tondo, as a motive for political rallies.

Rotary Club induction set

THE NEW board of directors and officers of the Rotary Club of New Manila East, led by their incumbent president, Herminio "Nonong" Lorenzo, will be formally inducted in Acropolis, 3rd Avenue, Cubao, Quezon City, on July 26 at 7 p.m. Other officers of the club include Maria Georgina, vice-president; Renato Mendoza, treasurer; Jose Ramos, secretary; Tony Lacuesta, treasurer and Raul Dionisio, club administrator. Outgoing president Eric Francisco Jr. and Rotary Governor Elect Ramon Ang will be the guests of honor and speakers at the induction ceremonies. The group is the parent of RMSC Kiwanis Foundation, the multi-awarded, "Search for the Country's Outstanding Volunteer in Service." At the recent awards night at the Manila Hotel, RMSC received 28 awards, including the coveted "Most Outstanding Rotary Club of District 3780," for its achievements from 2010-2011.

Off-duty cop foils robbery inside Pasay-bound jeep

By Jeannette I. Andrade

THREE robbers outlined too into flee they chose the wrong passenger jeepney to rob when they tried to hold up a P40,000 cash from a businessman.

A member of the police Special Action Force (SAF) happened to be inside the vehicle.

One of the suspects was killed while he tried to grab PO1 Ricardo Rae, 29, assigned with the PNP-SAF 2nd Battalion of Police Regional Office 2 based at Isabela City Transport in Zamboanga province.

PO1 Bernardo Cayabyab, of the Manila Police District (MPD) homicide section, said three men had flagged down the Pasay City-bound jeepney at Plaza Sta. Cruz around 1 a.m.

Upon reaching Padre Burgos avenue, the three took out their fan knives and a handgun and declared a holdup.

Rae immediately introduced himself as a police man, but one of the suspects tried to stab him. Rae took out his gun and shot the suspect.

The suspect's two companions then jumped off the vehicle and disappeared.

Responding jeepney driver, Leonardo Espinosa, drove to the MPD headquarters along Uli Avenue to report the robbery, bringing with him the body of the dead suspect and Rae.

Cayabyab told the investigator that the suspects probably did not believe Rae when he introduced himself as a policeman.

"Rae is a rookie who looks younger than his age. He was on his way to Pasay to catch a bus to Subic when he was supposed to report for work," Cayabyab added.

Three of Rae's fellow passengers told police how the policeman foiled the robbery and how one of the suspects ended up dead.

A prosecutor for Isabela was tasked to file the case in the slain suspect.

Pateros officials approve tax break for balut makers

By Nathaniel R. Mallari

BY A RESOLUTION flagging balut (fertilized duck egg) industry, Pateros Municipal Council has approved an ordinance which grants a tax break to duck growers and balut producers in the area.

Under Municipal Ordinance 2012-01, duck raisers and duck egg processors are exempted from paying the local business taxes which is equivalent to three percent of what they make in a year.

The ordinance, which takes effect this year, also exempts them from paying the annual mayor's permit fee which ranges from P500 to P1,000, depending on the size of their business.

Covered by the ordinance are duck raisers, unregistered balut, penoy and salted egg manufacturers as well as owners of balut stores and vendors who sell any of their duck breeding and egg processing in Pateros.

Pateros Mayor Jerry Medina, who introduced the ordinance to the municipal council earlier this year, said that it was aimed at reviving the municipality's dying balut manufacturing industry.

"My ayo kasama sa the Balut Capital of the Philippines, even Balut Festival Capital of the World. And while many people still go to Pateros to buy the best balut in town, many of the homegrown balut manufacturers here already closed shop," he told the business in a recent interview.

Medina explained that because of neglect, the Pateros River, where the ducks usually perform habit, are ruined, because polluted over the years, a condition that forced many to close down their business.

"In the 1990s, when our duck industry was at its height, over 50 duck raisers and balut manufacturers and many more balut sellers thrived here. Now, we only have something from five to three duck raisers and balut manufacturers are still based here," he said.

Medina expressed optimism that with the passage of the ordinance, they would be able to revive the flagging industry.

Pressure grows in China to end one-child law

BEIJING—Mrs. Chunyan was grabbed from her grocery store when she was almost eight months pregnant with her third child. Men smoking for a local official locked her up with two other women, and four days later, as brought her to a hospital and forced her to put her thumbprint on a document saying she had agreed to an abortion. A nurse injected her with a drug.

"After I got the shot, all the drugs disappeared," Ms. Jin, 32, said in a telephone interview from her home in the southeastern province of Fujian. "My family was with me again. I cried and hoped the baby would survive."

But after hours of labor, the baby was born dead on April 8, "black and blue all over," Ms. Jin said.

Recent reports of women being coerced into late-term abortions by local officials have drawn China's population control policy into the spotlight and ignited an outcry among policy advisers and scholars who are seeking to push central officials to ease the nation's one-child policy a law that penalizes families for having more than one child. Pressure to alter the policy is building on other fronts as well, as economists say that Orion's aging population and dwindling pool of young, cheap labor will be a significant factor in slowing the nation's economy in growth rate.

"An aging working population is resulting in a labor shortage, is less innovative and less energetic economy, and a more difficult path to industrial upgrading," said He Yafu, a demographic analyst. China's population of 1.3 billion is the world's largest, and the central government still seems focused on limiting that number through the one-child policy, He said. Abolishing the one-child policy, though, might not be enough to bring the birthrate up to a "healthy" level because of other factors, he said.

Beyond debates about the low birthrate, critics say that enforcement of the policy leads to widespread abuses, including forced abortions, because many local governments reward or penalize officials based on how well they keep down the populations.

Judging from the talk on microbloggy across China and articles in state-run newspapers on forced abortion cases, the one-child policy is being questioned more widely than in recent years. Last month it came under sharp attack from a group of scholars and former senior policy advisers as a forum at Peking University co-organized by the National Bureau of Statistics to discuss the results of the 2010 census. Scholars at the meeting were outraged by the plight of Feng Jianmei, a 25-year-old farmer from Shaanxi province who was seized by family planning officials in the early June seizure case because unlikely known after childbirth of her dead 7-month-old fetus were passed on the television by a relative.

"I think the right to have children is the right of a citizen," said Zhao Dingxin, a law professor at Peking University who has sent a petition signed by scholars and business executives to the National People's Congress urging its members to repeal the law.

Officials have made changes to the policy over the years, and by one estimate there are now at least 22 ways in which parents can qualify for exceptions to the law. But the majority of adults remain forced by it, and there is no sign its repeal is in the works. The National People's Congress, largely a rubber-stamp legislature, is unlikely to take up Zhao's petition without support from the top levels of the Communist Party.

Still, some former officials and scholars instrumental in helping to formulate the original policy were at the forum, raising hopes among long-time critics that the concerns would be heard among members of the National Population and Family Planning Commission.

The diplomatic crisis in the spring over Chen Guangcheng, has also brought more attention to the policy. Chen, a self-taught lawyer who recently escaped from house arrest and left for three days in the embassy of the United States, has been a powerful voice for women who are forced to undergo sterilization and abortion, his work incurred the wrath of local officials, and the second government ignored his persecution in illuminating provinces.

There are no reliable estimates on the number of forced sterilizations and abortions, but it does not seem to be as rampant as it was a decade or two ago. Still, the recent cases show sporadic enforcement of the one-child policy remains a problem. Online, the state news agency has reported that favoring pregnant women who are in their third trimester to abort is illegal.

Besides the concerns of lawyers and human rights advocates, economists and business executives have expressed anxiety about the impact of slowing population growth rate on the country. Liang Jianzhang, a well-known economist with a doctoral degree in economics from Stanford University and U. Austin, a demographer at Peking University, have estimated that by 2040, the number of Chinese older than 60 would be 413 million, up from 175 million today. The working population—people between the ages of 20 and 60—would drop to 696 million from 817 million today.

The 2010 national census shows that the average birthrate for a Chinese household is 1.181; it is lower in cities and higher in rural areas. There have been some studies, including a long, seven-year experiment in a county in Hunan province where the family planning law was suspended, that show that families would not have many more children even if the law were abolished. Scholars say the counties are rapid modernization and a shift in attitudes toward childbearing—parents often say they cannot afford to have more than one or perhaps two children. This means not only that the one-child policy may no longer be necessary, but also that its repeal would not necessarily increase the birthrate.

While some debate may be under way, the family planning commission itself continues to stand behind the one-child policy. It held a celebratory week conference on Thursday and praised a statement on its website that it says has helped China avoid 400 million births since it was put in place in 1980.

Starting in the 1980s, local officials who failed to meet a set standard of controlling population growth were generally penalized by the withholding of bonuses and promotions, no matter how well they did in other categories.

New York Times News Service

FLOODWATER falls down a stairway at a subway station amid heavy rainfall in Beijing on July 21. AFP

Heaviest rains in 60 yrs leave 37 dead in Beijing

BEIJING—Beijing residents returned angrily on Monday after the worst rains to hit the Chinese capital in more than 60 years left at least 37 people dead, with another seven still missing.

As of Monday morning, nearly nine million users of China's popular Sina Weibo microblog had posted their fury at the absence of any official warnings, and at the failure of the city's outdated drainage systems to cope with the storm that's deluged the city with more than a month's rainfall in just 18 hours.

"If the drainage system had been good, if the warning system had been put in place in a timely manner, if people had been notified in any better, would so many people have lost their cherished lives?" posted one, typically bitterly.

At least 23 people drowned on Saturday's rains, the heaviest to fall on the city since records began in 1951. Six died in housing collapses, five were electrocuted and one person was struck by lightning.

The rains and flooding caused 10 billion yuan ($1.6 billion) in damage, while nearly 66,000 people had to be evacuated from their homes, state media said, citing the Beijing government.

"Chinese cities are apparently unprepared in facing disasters such as Saturday's torrential downpour," the Global Times daily said in a Monday editorial critical of the city's disaster preparedness.

"If so much chaos can be triggered in Beijing, the capital of the nation, problems in urban infrastructure of many other places can only be worse," Photos showed entire parking lots flooded, while rescue and traffic workers were seen diving underwater to unclog roadside drains. AFP

Norway remembers victims of massacre

OSLO, Norway—Norway on Sunday paused in ceremonies for the 77 victims of a bomb and gun massacre that shocked the peaceful nation one year ago, a tragedy that the prime minister said had brought Norwegians together in defense of democracy and tolerance.

Anders Behring Breivik, a 33-year-old far-right fanatic, has admitted to the July 22, 2011, attacks: a bombing of the government district in Oslo, killing eight, and a shooting rampage that left 69 dead at the left-wing Labor Party's youth camp on Utoya island.

In a ceremony laying wreaths at the bomb site, Prime Minister Jens Stoltenberg said Breivik had failed in his declared goal of destroying Norway's country, saying the response includes "more democracy, more humanity, more political openness."

"The bomb and the gun shots were meant to change Norway," Stoltenberg told a somber crowd of a few hundred people at the ceremony. "The Norwegian people answered by embracing our values. The perpetrator lost. The people won."

Steps are still covering the windows of bomb-damaged buildings on the plaza, and large cement road blocks stop all but pedestrian traffic. Mounted police and officers with heavily-snarling dogs were on the site Sunday. But the ceremony was not overbearing, as if to show that Norway was still an open society.

The police investigation blamed Breivik act off a terrible, to bomb that tore the facade of the high-rise that housed the prime minister's headquarters, and drove toward Utoya unhindered as chaos reigned to the capital. Arriving on Utoya disguised as a police officer and armed with a handgun and semiautomatic rifle, he systematically hunted down and shot panicked teenagers fleeing into a chilly lake or hiding behind rocks to save their lives. More than half of the victims were teenagers—the youngest had turned 14 five days earlier.

NORWEGIANS by the thousands gathered on Sunday at scenes' memorials to the 77 people killed a year ago by far-right gunman Anders Breivik to show that his bloody campaign had done nothing to change their dedication to an open society. AFP

Survivors and families of victims gathered for a private ceremony on the island. Yakif Bederkani, a survivor of the massacre and the head of the Labor Party's youth chapter, urged the crowd to renew their commitment to a diverse and egalitarian society.

"Today we remember those who were killed. Tomorrow we continue the fight for what they stood for," Bederkani said, quoted in saying by Norwegian news agency NTB.

In a church service attended by government leaders and the royal family in Oslo's cathedral, Bishop Elisabeth Thoresen urged congregants to also remember the victims of violence in other parts of the world, including Syria and the United States, an apparent reference to the shooting spree on Friday that killed 12 moviegoers in Aurora, Colorado.

The mood lifted later Sunday as more than 10,000 people gathered for a rain-soaked memorial concert outside Oslo's waterfront City Hall. Artist performances by Norwegian artists, American rock star Bruce Springsteen made a surprise appearance with an acoustic version of "We shall overcome."

Springsteen had performed in Norway on Saturday as part of his European tour.

Breivik's memories still haunt many of those who witnessed the horror of Utoya, including Jora Overby, a local resident who rescued survivors fleeing the island by pulling them from the water into his boat.

"Sometimes I think about the parents who lost their young ones," Overby said. "Sometimes I think about the young ones I see floating in the water and lying in the shore."

During the 10-week trial that ended in June, Breivik admitted to the attacks, but declared a moral guilt out of principle, saying the victims were traitors for embracing immigration and making Norway a multicultural society.

Prosecutors said Breivik was psychotic and should be sent to a psychiatric hospital—arguments that he was sane. Breivik accused authorities of trying to discredit his ideology by casting him as mentally ill. The Oslo district court is set to deliver its ruling on Aug. 24. AP

Israel ready to act to secure Syria arms

JERUSALEM—Israel would "intervene militarily" if the Syrian regime collapses and there's a risk Syria's chemical weapons and missiles could fall into the hands of militant groups, Israel's prime minister warned on Sunday.

The deteriorating situation of President Bashar Assad's regime is sending Israeli fears that militants affiliated with Lebanon's Hezbollah group or the al-Qaeda terror network could raid Syrian military arsenals for chemicals weapons or missiles that could strike Israel.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said Israel hasn't considered "unorthodox" steps to secure the Syrian facilities in order the weapons. "There are other possibilities," he said in an interview on "60 Minutes" Sunday.

Over the weekend, Israeli Defense Minister Ehud Barak said Israel would be prepared to attack Syrian weapons arsenals should the need arise.

Netanyahu said preventing Syria's weapons from falling into the wrong hands is key to Israeli security.

"Until you imagine Ahmadinejad, the people who are conducting suicide bombings, having chemical weapons? It would be like al-Qaida having chemical weapons," he said. "It's something that is not acceptable to us, not acceptable to the United States and to any peaceable country in the world."

"So I think that this is something we'll have to act to stop if the need arises. And the need might arise if there's a regime collapse, but not a regime change," he said.

When asked whether Israel was prepared to act alone, Netanyahu said Syria's stockpiles was a "common concern" and that "we'd have to see if there was a common action to address that concern."

Netanyahu said he believes the fall of the regime is inevitable, but that it could take days, weeks or months. AP

Knot in NJ tree draws the faithful

WEST NEW YORK, New Jersey—Jaime Dominguez held his brother-burned Bible in front of him on Sunday morning and shouted at the throng of people standing outside the edge of the crowded sweeping at the base of a Ginkgo biloba tree with a strange knot that they believe resembles the Virgin Mary.

"This is witchcraft; you are worshipping devils!" bellowed Dominguez, 50, of North Bergen, New Jersey.

That remark prompted Maria Cole, one of dozens of people from West New York and nearby who had come to pray and lay flowers and votive candles by the tree, to charge at Dominguez.

"We don't need Satan!" Cole, 57, shouted in Spanish as a 20-year-old security guard and a police officer stepped between them. The Guadalupe Church Cultural Center in Mexico and elsewhere in Latin America believe that the Virgin Mary appeared to Juan Diego, an Aztec convert to Catholicism, in the 16th century. According to tradition, she filled his cloak with roses and left an image of herself on it. New York Times News Service

PRIDE

Mukherjee elected India president

PRANAB Mukherjee became the 13th elected president of India on Sunday capping a four-decade career as a revered figure in Indian politics. Mukherjee was 10 votes short of the prerequisite but largely ceremonial office, chosen by a nationwide electoral college for a five-year term.

His election was considered a foregone conclusion after his nomination last month by India's coalition government. Mukherjee, who mostly recently served as finance minister, expressed gratitude on Sunday for his victory, promising to "protect, defend and preserve" the Indian Constitution.

"I have received much more from the country in political establishment and the honors that could be I have given," Mukherjee said, according to The Indian Express, a leading English-language newspaper. "I will try to justify in a modest way as I can to the responsibility."

Mukherjee has often been described as the indispensable man in India's coalition governments. He has led or served on numerous key committees and has been called upon frequently to break political logjams or debate controversies. A native of the state of West Bengal, Mukherjee is a member of the Indian National Congress Party but was known to have a complicated relationship with Sonia Gandhi, the president of the party.

In June, Gandhi gave her blessing to Mukherjee as the government's presidential candidate, and then recommended the coalition allies as well as opposition parties to ensure that he had ample support to win. New York Times News Service

John Lavarre B. Gasco

The WORLD

US shooting shows how easy it is to build arsenal online

DENVER—Unhindered by federal background checks or government oversight, the 24-year-old man accused of killing a dozen people inside a Colorado movie theater was able to build what the police called a 6,000-round arsenal legally and easily over the Internet, exploiting what critics call a virtual absence of any laws regulating ammunition sales.

With a few keystrokes, the suspected James Eagan Holmes, ordered 3,000 rounds of handgun ammunition, 3,000 rounds for an assault rifle and 350 shells for a 12-gauge shotgun—an amount of firepower that costs roughly $1,000 at the online store—in the four months before the shooting, according to the police. It was pretty much as easy as ordering a book from Amazon.

He also bought bulletproof vests and other tactical gear, and a high-capacity "drum magazine" large enough to hold 100 rounds and capable of firing 90 or 50 rounds per minute—a purchase that would have been restricted under proposed legislation that has been stalled in Washington for more than a year.

Holmes, a 24-year-old graduate student in neuroscience with a clean criminal record, was able to buy the ammunition without arousing the slightest notice from law enforcement, because the sellers are not required to meet cases to report sales or law enforcement officials, even unusually large purchases. And neither Colorado nor federal law required him to submit to a background check or register his growing guardian.

SERENITY Broden, 7, from Aurora, preps before a memorial for victims of a shooting attack at the Century 16 movie theater on July 22.

Such purchases are now commonplace, experts said.

A few states like Illinois, Massachusetts and New Jersey, and cities like Los Angeles and Sacramento, have passed restrictions on ammunition sales, requiring permits for buyers or licenses for sellers, or limiting the dealers who can sell ammunition sales for law enforcement.

But in Colorado, and across much of the United States, the markets for ammunition—online and in storefronts—are largely unregulated, gun control advocates say.

Law enforcement officials have refused to say whether Holmes bought the ammunition from multiple sources or spaced out the purchases over several weeks to avoid drawing attention.

But an investigators combed through the contents of his apartment Sunday—in explosive booby traps now declared—one detail began to emerge of his activities in the weeks leading up to the rampage. They sketch a picture of a man once captivated by the science of the human mind growing increasingly interested in weapons and bizarre rituals.

On June 25, Holmes e-mailed an application to join the Lord Valley Range, prompting the owner, Glenn Rothestein, to call back, more than once, to invite a member of the range's ordnance committee to a meeting. Nobody ever appeared, but Rothestein described the voice message as nearly incomprehensible.

"It was this very garbled, very heavy bass, deep voice that was mumbling incoherently," Rothestein said. "It was bizarre—it scared the freakin' me out there."

Holmes never called back about joining.

In early July, Holmes ordered a Glock handgun, a Smith & Wesson rifle and two shotguns from a website called Tactical Gear, according to an order slip provided by the company's chief executive, Chad Strickland. He chose expedited two-day delivery to his apartment in the eastern Denver suburb of Aurora, where the shootings took place early Friday just a few miles from Holmes' apartment.

"I think it conveys a sense of urgency and desire premeditation," Strickland said in an interview, adding that the company was "deeply saddened" by gun ball apparently been used in a mass killing.

Three weeks after that purchase, stunned and bleeding witnesses outside the Century 16 multiplex in Aurora would describe how a mass demonic in a black commando-style outfit and a gas mask invade into the theater where they were watching a midnight screening of "The Dark Knight Rises," tossed noise gas-spewing grenades into the packed auditorium and opened fire.

A law enforcement official who requested anonymity because he was not authorized to speak publicly on the issue said local investigators in Aurora believed the gunman's ammunition-filled costume as he was spraying the theater with bullets, leaving him to reload his weapons. Had the gun not jammed, the official said, many more could have died.

The police apprehended Holmes outside the theater moments after the shooting, still wearing the body armor. He had four guns with him. A law enforcement official said he also had soldiers of fortune, specialists, to his possession.

Chief Daniel Oates of the Aurora police praised the arresting officers on the CBS program "Face the Nation" and said Holmes' gear was not quite like that of the other SWAT officers on the night well have escaped. —members by one of the responders.

New York Times
News Service

4 Awesome Ways A GALAXY Tab 2 Makes Life Better

In this always-on, always-connected age of personal technology, few devices have generated more fresh conversation and excitement than tablet computers. Drop by your favorite coffee shop on a Saturday afternoon, and chances are you'll spot numerous gadget fans with a tablet in hand, poring over the latest e-book best-seller, enjoying newly downloaded mobile games, checking out video chatting with family members halfway across the globe, catching up on Twitter & Facebook, editing a presentation deck, or simply just surfing their favorite news sites as they sip on a steaming mug of intense hot tea/coffee.

It's no wonder that these devices have dubbed today's technology enthusiasts as "the Tab Generation." Tasks that used to be the exclusive domain of traditional desktop PC's now take place almost exclusively on tablets, whose convenient, ultra-connected flexibility (by of having a full-touch, full-size tech experience in a supremely compact and mobile form factor they can just slip into their bags or a coat pocket. And the Tab Generation transcends age boundaries too; it's not unusual for a 6-year old child to simply pick up a tablet, and intuitively start tapping and swiping away on a game or interactive storybook. That's how simple and joyous the tablet experience is.

In fact happiness, it seems that global consumer technology giant Samsung has been the no-regret tablet of choice among discerning tech enthusiasts. Not resulting to be top of the sales charts with its iconic GALAXY Tab 7.0, then following its path a diverse selection of form factors ranging from the innovatively-crafted, Super AMOLED Plus-equipped GALAXY Tab 7.7 all the way up the expansive, made-for-gaming 10.1" GALAXY Tab variant. Now, with its newly-launched GALAXY Tab 2 range, Samsung is on a mission to bring the Greatthrough tablet experience into everyone's hands, with the latest Android™ 4.0 Ice Cream Sandwich operating system, state-of-the-art processors, hundreds of thousands of free apps available for download, and surprisingly reachable price points to deliver richer, more vibrant experiences that just make life better.

Here are four amazing things you can do with a GALAXY Tab 2 and a few clear favorable apps from the Google™ Play Store:

1. Turn your favorite coffeeshop into a mobile office. With such rich productivity apps as Polaris Office, you can create, edit and review documents, spreadsheets, and presentations in a jiffy, while CamScanner transforms your camera into a PDF scanner. They've built keyboards on the 10.1-inch variant lends an even more immersive flavor to gaming, throwing users like you, captivated experience delivered by all other mobile gaming platforms. On a screen this large, such classic favorites as Angry Birds Space, Fruit Ninja, and Need for Gas take on new life, making you admire your new-found tablet just a little bit longer as you can toast the more time high scores.

2. Customize to your own heart's desire. Available in both a 9MB version and a 9MB+ 8b variant, the 7.0-inch model is unbelievably portable, making it just the right size to tote around on your travels. Pengan customizations, folding maps, and outdated loaded guides. With such features as turn-by-turn navigation, Google™ Maps, and downloadable interactive travel guides, adventures always and not happily ever after. Such popular apps as Flight confidence and save travel plans into one convenient itinerary, while Wikitude World Browser uses augmented reality technology for your tablet's camera to discover points of interest and other useful information in the world around you.

4. Wow clients with rich multimedia presentations. Forget about lugging around clunky presentation devices, and embrace the GALAXY Tab 2 as an incredibly capable presentation tool in its own right. Imagine taking a client through a personalized deck—or your latest project booked as Vladimir Pino, then switching over to Adobe Reader to show off some slick maps and designs in PDF format. Professionalism, power, and presentation-ease in your hands.

Samsung GALAXY Tab 2's are available in all authorized Samsung Mobile dealers nationwide, with a suggested retail price of ₱12,990 for the 8GB (Wi-Fi) variant, ₱16,990 for the 3G-ready 8GB model, and ₱21,990 for the 3G-ready 16GB variant.

INQUIRER
Official Festival Representative

YANG YEO, GLENN OSAKI & MICHAEL HILLIARD NAMED SPIKES ASIA 2012 JURY PRESIDENTS

Michael Hilliard

Glenn Osaki

Spikes Asia, the regional creative advertising and communications festival for Asia Pacific, is pleased to announce that this year's final three jury presidents are Yang Yeo who will chair the Design Jury, Glenn Osaki will lead the PR Jury, and Michael Hilliard has been appointed the first Digital Entertainment & Entertainment Jury President.

Yang Yeo, Chief Creative Officer of Ogilvy Shanghai, President of the Design Jury, is responsible for leading creativity in China and is the creative in Shanghai since 2008. He led China to its first-ever Gold Lion at Cannes in 2008 with the Adidas Olympics Olympiad campaign, and made history once again by winning China's first-ever Cannes Grand Prix in 2011 and 2012 respectively. Between, Yeo has won an admirable track record as an ad firm former Grands Prix at Spikes Asia and year in the Print, Outdoor and Direct & Power Craft categories.

Under Yang's leadership, Ogilvy Shanghai were the Agency of the Year accolades at both Spikes in 2008, and Cannes in 2009, and the Agency of the Year in 2011. Yang was also named Campaign Asia-Pacific's Creative of the Year in 2011 for his outstanding accomplishment in Greater China.

Yang Yeo is a member of the first Cannes Chimera, maintaining the first Grand Challenge for Cannes Lions Initiative organized by Cannes Lions and the 8th & Mercy's Lions foundation.

Commenting on his appointment Yang Yeo said, "Design is where I started before advertising, and I look forward to going back to the roots where it's a full-fledged pure aesthetic, and immediate."

Glenn Osaki, Asia President of WELOCOUP Hukkis Groupon, strategic communications agency has been appointed president of the PR Jury. Glenn oversees the Asia operations, which include 36 teams in 16 cities and more than 1,000 employees, as well as a strong integrated network of affiliate partners across the region. In addition, Glenn chairs the WELOCOUP Management Board in Greater China and Australia.

WELOCOUP is the largest PR agency network in Asia, and is #1 in the fast-growing markets of Greater China and India. Prior to WELOCOUP, was awarded "PR Agency Network of the Year" by Campaign Asia-Pacific.

A 25-year veteran of WELOCOUP, Glenn's vast Asia experience includes regional management for clients such as Procter & Gamble, Coca-Cola, Unilever, Honeywell, World Gold Council, Sprint, Endeavedent Laboratories, SK Corporation, Guinness, Schweppes Asbroe, and numerous agencies over the city of Shanghai Motor Expo and 2008 Beijing Olympic Games.

Glenn Osaki says, "I am thrilled to lead the PR jury for Spikes' most celebrated creativity awards festival, to help define and honour the ground-breaking work in Asia."

Yang Yeo

Michael Hilliard's Executive Director of Film, Australia, will lead the inaugural Branded Content & Entertainment Jury. Michael is a film, television and multimedia producer.

His work with a range of award-winning writers, musicians, artists and sports figures including Robert Redford, Cate Blanchett, Tom Hanks, Jeff Bridges, Russell Crowe and Kylie Minogue. Hilliard's diverse and curious with documentaries and television. His work has been recognised by Cannes Lions, The Emmys, the Grammys and Film Critics Circle, and the Emmys, and has become part of the permanent collection at the Museum of Modern Art in New York.

His television credits include ECONOCLASTS, Fear Cars, and Six Degrees. KORE Manila. This film of Wellbeing and environmentally friendly initiatives in Asia's emerging economies. Hilliard's most celebrated film, Great Crusade for Cannes and Tsunami Rain Zealand. His feature film credits include The Bastard Boys' that starred Australian comedian Jonathan Ben Hamilton, I Found That That, The Rainbow Serpent, Better Housewifery, and Lorele, by Australian Screen Directors Association, which premiered at the Seattle Film Festival.

Michael is a member of the International Academy of Television Arts and Sciences, the Australian Film Institute, the Australian Academy of Cinema and Television Arts (AACTA) and the Screen Producers Association of Australia. He has served as a judge for the International Emmy Awards, the Australian Screen Awards, and recently as a member of the inaugural Branded Content & Entertainment jury at the Cannes Lions International Festival of Creativity.

Michael Hilliard comments, "It is a privilege to serve on the first Branded Content and Entertainment jury at Spikes Asia. It's the first year for the category at the Spikes, it's very important that this jury gets it right. It will be very exciting to see what the jury selects to follow. Singapore is kind of like a fountain of youth. Singaporeans have been very supportive of the arts and are a rich history of locals and a large expat community that also brings with the town. The Singapore government is a global hub for business, investment and talent makes that there is always a stream of fresh thinking and ideas, and I look coming into the city. It is a great place to come together to recognise the best work from the region."

Jury Manager, Lucinda Cain of Lions Festivals says, "Yang, Glenn and Michael have outstanding track records and strong leadership skills. We are confident that they will be able to help shape their juries in selecting the best work in the region. We look forward to welcoming them to Spikes Asia."

Delegate registration for Spikes Asia is now open, with anyone registering before 14 August benefiting from the early bird rate. For further information, go to the Festival and how to register, go visit http://www.spikes.asia.

IN THIS ISSUE
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Editor Raul G. Marcelo ● Assistant Editor Corrie S. Mariano
BUSINESS

Miners back suspension of Chinese firm

Chamber readies scorecard to measure industry's performance

By Ron T. Chichioco

THE CHAMBER of Mines of the Philippines (COMP) yesterday said it supported the recent government suspension of a foreign-led mining operation that was contributing to the environmental concerns in its host province.

The miners' group said that while it was confident that its members adhere to the principles of responsible minerals development, it was taking steps to ensure full membership compliance with all laws on environment, health and safety, as well as on community engagement.

COMP said it fully supported the Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) order suspending the operation of a nickel miner in Sanguay del Norte for failing to address excessive siltation along the shoreline in Claver town where the company operated.

READ ON B2

INDICATORS

PESO-DOLLAR RATE
July 23, 24-12
42.060

STOCK MARKET
July 23, 2012
71.49

(For stock market report see Page B4)

Stocks end lower

LOCAL shares hovered yesterday as fresh concerns on the short-term debt spooked regional markets after a Spanish region sought financial aid from Madrid.

The main share Philippine Stock Exchange index shed 71.49 points or 1.20 percent to close at 5,136.48.

"We believe today's sell-off was primarily driven by some profit-taking by foreign hedge funds they took in some of their hefty gains for the year and shift their attention to the rising macro concerns in the more developed markets," said ECA financial president Consolo Ilalo.

"The break of the 5,150 (support level) paved the way for more selling," said Banco de Oro (unibank strategist Jonathan Ravelas. "(I'm) looking forward to test of the 5,000 levels."

The market was weighed down by the financial, industrial, holding firm and property counters, which almost wiped out 1 percent.

Only the mining counter managed to eke out small gains for the day, aided by the DOE-penned clean advance of Philex Mining. This developed as Philex chair Manuel V. Pangilinan said the company would be able to proceed with at least the Boyongan portion of its Silangan mining project in the aftermath of the issuance of a new environmental order on mining.

Value turnover, however, was thin at P5.09 billion. There were 107 decliners that outnumbered 43 gainers while 42 stocks were unchanged. **Doris C. Dumlao**

T-bill rates fall across the board; 91-day yield at 1.8%

By Michelle V. Remo

TREASURY bill rates fell across the board yesterday as foreign inflation, improving fiscal condition of the government and speculation of a policy move by the central bank convinced banks to seek smaller risk premiums.

The bellwether 91-day rate fell 20.8 basis points to 1.8 percent from 2.008 following P5.8 billion in bids from highly liquid banks compared with the government's debt offering of only P3 billion. Saying the government did not need more cash than it initially intended to raise, the auction committee accepted just P3 billion worth of bids.

The 182-day rate dropped 3.5 basis points to 2.317 percent from 2.352 percent on tender exhibited a significant appetite for the six-month debt paper as well. Bids for the six-month bills reached P8.72 billion compared with the P2.5 billion debt offering of the government. Sticking to the borrowing program, the government accepted P2.5 billion worth of bids.

The 364-day rate eased by 16.9 basis points to 2.329 percent from 2.498 percent given the substantial demand for the longest-dated T-bills. Bids for the one-year debt more amounted to P8.16 billion compared with the government's debt offering of only P4 billion. The auction committee again observed the borrowing program and accepted just P4 billion worth of bids.

Deputy National Treasurer Eduardo Mendiola said the decline in treasury bill rates was

T-BILL/B2

2nd quarter earnings seen on track with expectations

Citi study sees Cebu Pacific beating target

By Doris C. Dumlao

WITH the clustering of the second-quarter corporate reporting season, Citigroup experts Philippine banks, property, utilities and telecommunications companies on report cards on track with market consensus *while air transportation*—particularly Cebuanapacific-led airline operator Cebu Air—is viewed leaving expectations.

Citi is also bracing for a potential trimming of consensus estimates by consumer stocks and some conglomerates, based on a July 16 report that offered a preview of second-quarter corporate earnings across Southeast Asia.

Likely to beat expectations, the research unit, was Cebu Air. "Lower jet fuel costs quarter-on-quarter and year-on-year, strong peak season in second quarter, and lower national competition domestically is seen to lift profits," the report said.

Coming from a 19 percent year-on-year growth in the first quarter driven by banks and property operators, Citi said earnings growth for stocks under its coverage was likely to decelerate in the second quarter. But the softer second-quarter earnings growth, the research unit said, was in line with expectations.

The Citi research noted that for the full year, consensus estimates pointed to earnings rising 11 percent for the full-year 2012.

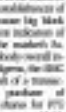
In line with market expectations, the research unit banks' second-quarter earnings were likely to be dominant. The key lender cited were that loan growth might slow down to mid-teens level on interest margins were likely to be flat to lower year-on-year with zero yield on bank reserves offset by the twin effects of higher benchmark lending rates and the repricing of time deposits to cut savings deposit costs, and rising yields on government securities should trim trading income in the second quarter after strong gains in the first three months.

The property counter is also seen likely being in line with expectations. The Citi research said the "possibly higher than-expected residential sales and progress completion from ramped-up project launches in the second half of 2012 will be surpassed by higher interest charges from recent debt issuances."

For utilities, the research said a strong top-line growth would likely be in line with market expectations. "High spot market prices could drive top line of generation companies that sell to the spot market or have prices linked to spot markets. Robust electricity demand could drive volumes of distribution companies," the report said.

Results among conglomerates were seen mixed, with Aboitiz Pacific Investment, Ayala Corp. and SM Investments likely being in line with consensus, the Citi research said. However, it said GMEG Holdings might see market estimates downgraded.

Last week's importance



Market Rider

Dave Santorum

TRADING last week was not that bad. Weekly trading has rebounded to nearly 3.43 percent or 0.87 percent, which was a far cry from the total weekly trading loss of 168.16 points or 2.76 percent the week before. Still, I still found trading to be disappointing like the missing policy—announced by the government also last week—which failed to excite the markets.

What could only be positive about the trading results last week, however, could be the fact that the market's closing streak was broken on Friday not to mention that it was also the last day of trading last the month. The market closed in positive territory, albeit with only 15.52 points or 0.41 percent gain as it closed at 3,710.89.

On the other hand, this close by the market in positive territory on Friday could be all that is significant. It may be the close that will make the difference as unveiled in last week's trading activities as well as the lead to the market's interests.

More clues

The above observations may not be enough. But if we unravel only one of the biggest pieces of the market, it could probably lead us to more clues. For one, from June 18 to 26, the market happened to be on a high side as it made a total cumulative weekly advance of 133.78 points on a total volume of 4.62 billion shares and value turnover of P93.84 billion.

About 45.24 percent of total value turnover was incurred on June 20 due to the big block sale on San Miguel Corp. (SMC) amounting to P37.89 billion along with the SMC transaction, the market's momentum gained momentum and spilled over the following week to even set the all-time record high of 5,301.30 on July 5.

On July 4, the market hit the session's high of 5,300.16 but only to close lower since the session's low of 5,192.74, after the failure of the market to reach a new record high, it went into an alternating trading mode that led to a negative close one day and a positive close the next day which in the end still resulted on a weekly gain of 116.27 points or 2.22 percent for the week ending July 6.

If we are to use the cited time frame in the market's movement, in last week's trading, the market's gain of 116.27 points, its total foreign ownership in SMC after the block sale transaction was more equivalent to 998,517,909 common shares or 9.99% or 11.03 percent.

Other transactions were: 1,000,000 common shares or equivalent to 0.01 percent of SMC also from block trades; 99,738,200 common shares or equivalent to 1.00 percent of SMC from Primavera Finance; 67,869,000 common shares or equivalent to 1.41 percent of SMC from Silver Leaf Resources Inc.; 47,869,000 common shares or equivalent to 1.42 percent of SMC from Meadow Lark Plantations Inc.; 61,738,500 common shares or equivalent to 1.09 percent of SMC from Natural Fauna Inc.; 60,969,000 common shares or equivalent to 1.02 percent of SMC from Lucena Oil Factory Inc.; 49,000,000 common shares or equivalent to 1.46 percent of SMC from Bauan Commercial Inc., and 1,000,000 common shares or equivalent to 0.14 percent of SMC from PCF Oil Manufacturing Inc.

Bottom line quiz

My today, the consequence of the market's positive close last Friday is the positive close last Friday is the result of which mitigated the market's lined fall the week before to a slight loss of 3.63 points or 0.07 percent only), should spur increasing evidence.

First, it should have been at least a reflection of the market's expectation positive outlook on the delivery of 2Q4q% rises.

Second, it could also spoken to be the market's business and earning point from its current trend as led by the market's positive reception and acceptance to the 2Q earnings of Top Frontier, which should be largely about an explanation of how his administration will be the growth targets of the country that may involve public spending and investment on infrastructure, agriculture and tourism, in spite rapid and big business economic growth.

Third, it may be the start of accumulation phase, which in the end will still prove to be the market's bottom of the year of the year.

(The writer is a licensed stockbroker of Tyger Equities, Inc. You may reach the Market Rider at your trade@tygerequities.ph , dave@marketriders.com or at www.tygerlabs.com)

T-bill rates fall

From page B1

partly due to the benign inflation environment in the country. He said investors did not have any reason to seek higher yields on short-term investments in government bills given that consumer prices were behaving favorably.

The annual inflation rate averaged 3 percent in the first half. The government targets to keep inflation for the year at 3 to 5 percent.

"It was on many occasions. Government movement across all tenors was partly due to the manageable inflation," Mendiola said. "In addition, awareness of the government's good cash position also helped lower the rates."

Expectations that the government would organize a lesser than expected budget deficit for this year's first tranche of infrastructure rebates to ease collection was also taken into account by the market in pricing treasury bills, Mendiola said.

The improving fiscal position of the government reduces the chance of its rebuilding on its debts, giving room for it banks to seek lower risk premiums, he said.

Miners back suspension

From page B1

The suspended mining firm, Albatross Mining Group Corp., is part of a number of COMP the nation by group said.

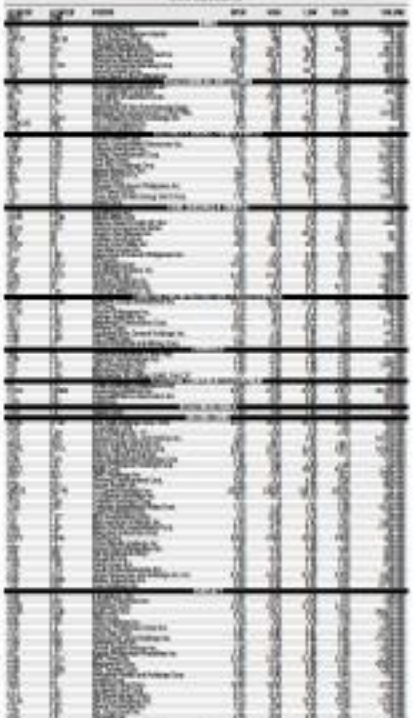
COMP and Shenaco was among several foreign mining firms—also not members of COMP—that were being heavily criticized for the health and ecological risks of environmental laws.

The industry group said it was also closely monitoring its members, warning that those found to be reneging on their duties in the environment and host communities as prescribed by law would be expelled from the group and subjected to disciplinary measures. Suitable punitive actions, including suspensions or expulsions from the membership roster, would be meted out to those who fail, it added.

"We believe that as an active player in an industry that is subject to motivation scrutiny by the government and civil society organizations, COMP should take a lead role in addressing expectations for a sustainable development," COMP chair Antonio Dietz said. "To such, we encourage our members to pursue responsible mining that will not compromise the environment and the interests of social interest—from land use, resource use and environmental performance to worker safety and respect for human rights."

"As an expression of our resolve to address the concerns of different sectors of our society on mining, we are also initiating a scorecard with responsible mining assessment organization to find more and better ways of measuring our industry's performance, not only in the area of environmental development, but equally important, in environmental conservation," Dietz added.

Philippine Stock Exchange



Currencies

Country	Unit	Peso Equivalent	Buying Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	1.000000	41.8000	41.8400
Japan	Yen	1.000000	41.8000	41.8400
Hong Kong	Dollar	1.000000	41.8000	41.8400
Switzerland	Franc	1.000000	41.8000	41.8400
Canada	Dollar	1.000000	41.8000	41.8400
Singapore	Dollar	1.000000	41.8000	41.8400
Australia	Dollar	1.000000	41.8000	41.8400
Euro	Euro	1.000000	41.8000	41.8400
United Kingdom	Pound	1.000000	41.8000	41.8400
Sweden	Krona	1.000000	41.8000	41.8400
Denmark	Krone	1.000000	41.8000	41.8400
Norway	Krone	1.000000	41.8000	41.8400
Saudi Arabia	Riyal	1.000000	41.8000	41.8400
Kuwait	Dinar	1.000000	41.8000	41.8400
Bahrain	Dinar	1.000000	41.8000	41.8400
United Arab Emirates	Dirham	1.000000	41.8000	41.8400
Qatar	Riyal	1.000000	41.8000	41.8400
Oman	Rial	1.000000	41.8000	41.8400
Thailand	Baht	1.000000	41.8000	41.8400
Malaysia	Ringgit	1.000000	41.8000	41.8400
New Zealand	Dollar	1.000000	41.8000	41.8400
South Korea	Won	1.000000	41.8000	41.8400
Taiwan	NT Dollar	1.000000	41.8000	41.8400

Tune Hotels eyes 4 more PH branches

Hotel chain aims to ride on budget travel boom

By Dustin L. Lacay

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Hotel chain aims to ride on budget travel boom

By Dustin L. Lacay

All 600 less-cost hospitality firm Red Planet Hotels Ltd. said it had acquired a stake in Tune Hotels group and that the hotel chain would set up five more hotels in the Philippines.

In a telephone interview, Red Planet Hotels CEO Nicolas Young said the company would double the number of Tune Hotels in the country this year to take advantage of the ongoing budget travel boom.

"We're going to open another three to four hotels in the Philippines," he said. "We will have branches in Quezon City, Cagayan de Oro City, Davao City and Ortigas (Pasig City)."

He said the group was also looking to announce a new hotel within the SM Mall of Asia complex in the coming months.

"So we will have nine to 10 hotels in the Philippines by the end of next year," Hsieng said, noting that, on the average, each Tune Hotel would have about 160 rooms.

"There is huge growth in the hotel sector in the Philippines," he added.

The Red Planet CEO explained that hotels in the Philippines had set "half empty" for many years, but that demand had "suddenly caught up with supply" as tourists are making in a shortage of hotel rooms, especially for budget travelers.

"We recognized this was happening so early in the year ago," he said.

Together with its other hotel investments around Asia, Red Planet will spend about $180 million to put up 3,195 hotel rooms over the next five.

There are four Tune Hotels currently in operation in the Philippines, with its newest—the Makati branch—having opened last week.

He said Tune Hotels had been very well received by the local market, as evidenced by its Tunies launch having been fully booked on its first day of operations.

He added that, unlike the troubled airline industry, budget hotels were very profitable, earning on average operating margin of 50 percent (hotel earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortization).

He said up to 40 percent of Tune Hotels' customers were walk-in customers.

Hotel rooms cost anywhere from $5 to $30 a night, depending on how early a client books his room, or what amenities he wants to enjoy.

In the Philippines, Tune Hotels is in direct competition with the Cebu-based Go Hotels which, like Tune Hotels' tie up with Airbus, seeks to bundle with budget airliner Cebu Pacific.

"They have two hotels and they're from (rival) Ayala," Hsieng said when asked about his competition.

Last week, Red Planet acquired a 16.05-percent stake in Tune Hotels, equivalent to 6,975,000 shares, as both companies sought to grow the booming low-cost hotel brand.

Tony Fernandes, founder of the Tune Hotel and Airbus brands, remained the biggest shareholder of the hotel chain.

Established in 2007, there are now 24 Tune Hotels operating 5,000 rooms globally.

There is a confirmed additional pipeline of 20 more hotels with 10,106 rooms, including three in India, Scotland, Australia and South Africa, along with additional properties in Thailand, Indonesia, the Philippines, Malaysia and England.

By the end of 2012, Red Planet Hotels will have 10 operating hotels with 1,820 rooms in Thailand, the Philippines and Indonesia.

New model seen

From page B1

launch of its new air-conditioning models.

The company has already unveiled five of the 10 models that are scheduled for launching this year.

GMC remarks the gave marks a preview of its latest model, the Aluminopower Garden Optima, which promises 17 percent to 30 percent energy savings yearly.

This model, the company claims, has the lowest rated power consumption of 660 watts in its class.

Concepcion said the company was expecting this model to generate a "very positive impact on the company in terms of sales and market share."

"Thermodel is a game changer. It changes the game in a way that offers you incremental improvements in many measures, which we give more. With a reputable brand, price, energy savings and the backing of a large company, there is no reason why consumer will not like this product," he said.

The Carrier Optima, GMC added, was also the company's way of helping the government cope with rising electricity demand and national power supply as this unit secured efficient use of energy. The model allows customers to enjoy unconditioning of room cost.

GMC earlier said it was spending as much as ₱300 million this year to fund the planned expansion of its manufacturing facility in Laguna to accommodate the growing demand for quality cooling solutions both here and abroad.

Concepcion said the capital expenditure budget for 2012 would allow the company to expand its production capacity by 25 to 30 percent from the current production of about 400,000 airconditioning units per year. Jerry B. Rosco

Business

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Republic of the Philippines
Department of Labor and Employment
OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH CENTER
North Ave. cor. Agham Road, Diliman, Quezon City

INVITATION TO BID

1. The Occupational Safety and Health Center, through the Bids-Awards Fund intends to apply the sum of **Three Million Pesos (Php 3,000,000.00)** being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for supply of **Hematology Analyzer (w/ 5-Part Differential Analyzer)**. Bids received in excess of this ABC shall be automatically rejected at bid opening.
2. The Occupational Safety and Health Center now invites bids for the supply of **Hematology Analyzer (w/ 5-Part Differential Analyzer)**. Delivery of the Goods is required within 45-60 days. Bidders should have completed, within two (2) years from the date of submission and receipt of bids, a contract similar to this Project. The description of an eligible bidder is contained in the Bidding Documents, particularly, in Section II Instructions to Bidders.
3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using a non-discretionary "pass/fail" criterion as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act (RA) 9184, otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act". Bidding is open to all interested bidders, whether local or foreign, subject to the conditions for eligibility provided in Section 23 of the IRR.
4. Interested bidders may obtain further information from the Occupational Safety and Health Center and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below during office hours from 8:30 am – 4:30pm.
5. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee for the Bidding Documents in the amount of **Three Thousand Pesos Only (Php 3,000.00)**.
6. The Occupational Safety and Health Center will hold a Pre-Bid Conference on July 31, 2012, 2:00 p.m. at Conference Room 2A, OSHC IT Pl. Training and Research Building which shall be open only to all interested parties who have purchased the Bidding Documents.
7. Bids must be delivered to the address below on or before August 13, 2012, 2:00 p.m. All Bids must be accompanied by a bid security in any of the acceptable forms and in the amount stated in ITB Clause 18.
8. Bid opening shall be on August 13, 2012, 2:00 p.m. at Conference room 2A, 3rd Flr. Training and Research Bldg., OSHC Complex. Bids will be opened in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below. Late bids shall not be accepted.
9. The Occupational Safety and Health Center reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.
10. For further information, please refer to:

Occupational Safety and Health Center
4th Floor, DOLE-SSS Building, Quezon City
Tel Nos. 927-1809/929-6020 to 30 loc. 209
Telefax: 927-0480
e-mail : oshc.osh@yahoo.com
oshc_bac@yahoo.com
website : http://www.bwc.dole.gov.ph

(Sgd.) **ENGR. JOSE MARIA S. SALVIO**
BAC Chairman

(PDI – July 24, 2012)

BATANGAS II ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

Kumpay sa Nuro, Liya Ola

INVITATION TO BID

WHAT: Bidding for the Supply and Delivery of Bagsche Elevators at Special Series of Membership Assembly (P 50 015 of 5)

WHEN: July 27, 2012 (Prebidding Conference)

WHERE: BATELEC II Multi Purpose Conference Room Barangay del Pilar, Lipa City

Cost of Bid Documents: Php 5,000.00

These interested bidders shall bring the following Pre-Qualification Documents:

1 Business Registration (s DTI or SEC)
2. Permit to Operate (Mayor's Permit)
3. Comprehensive Company Profile
4. Audited Financial Statement
5. Income Tax Return (ITR)
6. Constructivity Leadership / Manufacturer's Certificate, etc
7. Notarized authorization from the company being represented (for Representatives)

For inquiries, Prospective Bidders may call PBAC Secretariat, Mdy Ann Grace A. Abay on (043) 756-4227 local 404

Noted by:

(Sgd.) **ENGR. CELSO L. ROBES**
Vice President (Mid-Level Assets)
Committee Chairperson

(Sgd.) **ENGR. ESTANISLAO B. MENDOZA**
Assistant General Manager

NEDA Region I's Invitation for Bid No. IB-0-01-2012-004

Funded thru Notional Electrification Administration (NEA) for Sitio Electrification Program, Nueva Ecija II Electric Cooperative, Inc.-Area I (NEECO-I Area I) invites contractors from eligible and accredited bidders for the construction of the following distribution lines as per Board Resolution No. 07-05-12, dated 07-2012:

LOT 1

DESCRIPTION	MATERIALS	MANPOWER	MATERIALS COST		
			LOCAL	FOREIGN	TOTAL
1. Line Preparation	Line Materials	Manpower	1,000	1,000	2,000
2. Poles	Poles	Manpower	1,000	1,000	2,000
3. Crossarms	Crossarms	Manpower	1,000	1,000	2,000
4. Line Materials	Line Materials	Manpower	1,000	1,000	2,000
5. Transformers	Transformers	Manpower	1,000	1,000	2,000
6. Conductors	Conductors	Manpower	1,000	1,000	2,000
7. Insulators	Insulators	Manpower	1,000	1,000	2,000
8. Hardware	Hardware	Manpower	1,000	1,000	2,000
9. Grounding	Grounding	Manpower	1,000	1,000	2,000
10. Testing	Testing	Manpower	1,000	1,000	2,000
11. Commissioning	Commissioning	Manpower	1,000	1,000	2,000
12. Documentation	Documentation	Manpower	1,000	1,000	2,000
13. Training	Training	Manpower	1,000	1,000	2,000
14. Maintenance	Maintenance	Manpower	1,000	1,000	2,000
15. Warranty	Warranty	Manpower	1,000	1,000	2,000
16. Insurance	Insurance	Manpower	1,000	1,000	2,000
17. Miscellaneous	Miscellaneous	Manpower	1,000	1,000	2,000
18. Contingency	Contingency	Manpower	1,000	1,000	2,000
19. Total	Total	Total	19,000	19,000	38,000

LOT 2

DESCRIPTION	MATERIALS	MANPOWER	MATERIALS COST		
			LOCAL	FOREIGN	TOTAL
1. Line Preparation	Line Materials	Manpower	1,000	1,000	2,000
2. Poles	Poles	Manpower	1,000	1,000	2,000
3. Crossarms	Crossarms	Manpower	1,000	1,000	2,000
4. Line Materials	Line Materials	Manpower	1,000	1,000	2,000
5. Transformers	Transformers	Manpower	1,000	1,000	2,000
6. Conductors	Conductors	Manpower	1,000	1,000	2,000
7. Insulators	Insulators	Manpower	1,000	1,000	2,000
8. Hardware	Hardware	Manpower	1,000	1,000	2,000
9. Grounding	Grounding	Manpower	1,000	1,000	2,000
10. Testing	Testing	Manpower	1,000	1,000	2,000
11. Commissioning	Commissioning	Manpower	1,000	1,000	2,000
12. Documentation	Documentation	Manpower	1,000	1,000	2,000
13. Training	Training	Manpower	1,000	1,000	2,000
14. Maintenance	Maintenance	Manpower	1,000	1,000	2,000
15. Warranty	Warranty	Manpower	1,000	1,000	2,000
16. Insurance	Insurance	Manpower	1,000	1,000	2,000
17. Miscellaneous	Miscellaneous	Manpower	1,000	1,000	2,000
18. Contingency	Contingency	Manpower	1,000	1,000	2,000
19. Total	Total	Total	19,000	19,000	38,000

LOT NO.	DESCRIPTION/SPECIFICATION	QTY.
1	Supply and Delivery of Materials for Construction of Distribution Line (Primary/Secondary)	1 Lot
2	Supply and Delivery of Materials for Construction of Distribution Line (Primary/Secondary)	1 Lot

NOTE: Interested bidders must pay accreditation fee of Php 1,000.00 except for those who are already accredited.

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by eligible Bidders from July 26-31, 2012 upon submission of a written application to the address and upon payment of non-refundable fee TEN THOUSAND PESOS (Php 10,000.00) for the Documents.

The Pre-bid Conference will be held at main office NEECO II - Area 1, Brgy. Calaanan, Talavera, Nueva Ecija on August 1, 2012 at 10 a.m.

Sealed proposals in duplicate copies must be submitted to the BAC Chairman during the Bid opening at which time and place of each proposal will be opened and read in the presence of the Bidders and/or their representatives. Bid proposals must include terms of payment, bid validity, and delivery schedule.

Further, all submitted must be accompanied by a Bid Security equivalent to two percent (2%) of the offer, which is to be returned immediately after the bid awarding. Bid Security must be in Manager's Check form ONLY.

NEECO II - Area 1 reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any formality or technicality therein, accept the bid that is deemed most advantageous to the NEECO II –Area 1, and to annul the bidding process and reject all bids at any time prior to the contract award without incurring any liability to any affected bidder or bidders.

Finally, NEECO II - Area 1 assumes no obligation to compensate any bidder or party for any loss or expense incurred in the preparation of the bid or participation in the bidding process.

CORRECTION NOTICE FROM PUBLICATION LAST JULY 12, 2012: Acquisition of Bidding Documents will be from July 26-31, 2012. Pre-Bid Conference will be held on August 1, 2012. Bid Opening will be on August 3, 2012 at 10AM. Conference Room No. 4 of Training Building (Lobby Level 1 Building).

(Sgd.) **ENGR. NELSON DELA CRUZ**
BAC Chairman

(Sgd.) **MS. DULAGAN M. CASTRO**
General Manager

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NOTICE OF FILING OF APPLICATION FOR ALIEN EMPLOYMENT PERMITS (AEPS)

Notice is hereby given that the following consolidated/amendment have filed with this Regional Office applications for Alien Employment Permit(s):

Name and address of Company/Employer	Name of Foreign National/Intended Employee(s)	Position
NOVELEN NEDEA MANILA, INC. 2nd F Unit 1 Corporate Center, Julia Vargas cor. Meralco Ave., Ortigas Center, Pasig City	Timothy Robert Hodges Australian	President/ Chairman of the Board
TECH-NEDEA/NEDEA LIMITED 10/F Ambuklao Bldg., #3 Eastwood Ave. Eastwood City Cyberpark, Bagumbayan, Quezon City	Jayaseni Dhege Indian	Technical Associate
TECH-NEDEA/NEDEA LIMITED 10/F Ambuklao Bldg., #3 Eastwood Ave. Eastwood City Cyberpark, Bagumbayan, Quezon City	Hiranmaiy Bhukta Indian	Technical Associate
SHELL SHARED SERVICES (MALAYSIA) B.V. TLP Subic One Bldg., Subic Bay Freeport Zone, Legaspi Village, Makati City	Ahmad Ghozali Indian	Advisor - Depreciation
CONTRACT SERVICES LLC 10/F Samsung Bldg., 0636 Bonifacio Drive, Port Area, Manila	Dhanesh Pattu Indian	Senior Manager - Quality
CONTRACT SERVICES LLC 10/F Samsung Bldg., 0636 Bonifacio Drive, Port Area, Manila	Rahul Mukhedkar Indian	Vice President Engineer
SAMSUNG ELECTRONICS INT. CORP. 26/F Salcedon Ave., Makati Stock Exchange, Makati, Metro Manila	Yeo Jin Chung Korean	Operations Manager
LANGHAM STAR INTERNATIONAL CORPORATION U-1107 Tower 1, The Enterprise Center, 6766 Ayala Ave. cor. Paseo de Roxas, Makati City	Yanchu Wang Chinese	Technical Staff
LANGHAM STAR INTERNATIONAL CORPORATION U-1107 Tower 1, The Enterprise Center, 6766 Ayala Ave. cor. Paseo de Roxas, Makati City	Jingling Wang Chinese	Technical Staff
NELLY'S DAKAR, INC. 7th and 8th Crescent Park Residences, 30th St. cor. 2nd Ave., Fort Bonifacio Global City, Taguig City	Mika Bagaoisan Japanese	Teacher
ADP (PHILIPPINES), INC. 26/F ACSC Riverside Tower 1, 6795 Ayala Avenue, Makati City	Salvador Antonio Martinez American	Business Process Owner/ Trainer
ARC GLOBAL SERVICES & OPERATIONS (MANILA), INC. U-2/F Dusit One Bldg., 139 Alvo Kasi St., Legaspi Village, Makati City	Bipina Alphonsa Landed Purbo Indonesian	Official Service/Odds Processing
OLE GROUP (PHILIPPINES), INC. 30/F Tower 2, The Enterprise Center, 6766 Ayala Ave. cor. Paseo de Roxas, Makati City	Nanda Umar Indonesian	Sports Trainer
OLE GROUP (PHILIPPINES), INC. 30/F Tower 2, The Enterprise Center, 6766 Ayala Ave. cor. Paseo de Roxas, Makati City	Dwiki Sudrajat Hong Indonesian	Sports Trainer
OLE GROUP (PHILIPPINES), INC. 30/F Tower 2, The Enterprise Center, 6766 Ayala Ave. cor. Paseo de Roxas, Makati City	Hendry Lim Indonesian	Sports Trainer
OLE GROUP (PHILIPPINES), INC. 30/F Tower 2, The Enterprise Center, 6766 Ayala Ave. cor. Paseo de Roxas, Makati City	Agus Hilf Indonesian	Sports Trainer
OLE GROUP (PHILIPPINES), INC. 30/F Tower 2, The Enterprise Center, 6766 Ayala Ave. cor. Paseo de Roxas, Makati City	Tan Wei Meng Malaysian	Asian Regional Operations Manager
OLE GROUP (PHILIPPINES), INC. 30/F Tower 2, The Enterprise Center, 6766 Ayala Ave. cor. Paseo de Roxas, Makati City	Aldo Indonesian	Sports Trainer
OLE GROUP (PHILIPPINES), INC. 30/F Tower 2, The Enterprise Center, 6766 Ayala Ave. cor. Paseo de Roxas, Makati City	Hasang Sidipawan Indonesian	Sports Trainer
ING TECHNICAL CORP. 12/F ING Bldg., Ayala cor. Val. Ayala Ave., Makati City	Angelo Antonio Rigali Australian	Projects Administrator
INERVIZ PHILIPPINES, INC. Pacific Center, 7th Floor, Ethel, Diamond Center, Makati City	Sofia Policar Italian	Cost Approval, Time and Senior Pilot Monitor
GEF-SAEMA CAPITAL PARTNERS PHILS., INC. 10/F Uptown Center, Bonifacio Global City, Taguig City	Gherardo Sarto Japanese	President and CEO
PHILIPPINE NAVAL ACADEMY, INC. 12/F Javier Bldg., Commonwealth Avenue, Quezon City	Nuno Miguel Lamby de Matos Portugal	Operations Manager
NEWMONT CORP. 11/F NOM, Pasay, Yachtsmans Tower, 6805 Ayala Ave., Makati City	Timothy Shiang Huang American	Chief Operating Officer
NEWMONT CORP. 11/F NOM, Pasay, Yachtsmans Tower, 6805 Ayala Ave., Makati City	Geraldine Natalia Alejo Filipino	Area Business Manager
KARAMPER TRADING CORP. 1st Adlo Mundo St., Cubao, Quezon City	Madan Lal Indian	Assistant Sales Manager
KARAMPER TRADING CORP. 1st Adlo Mundo St., Cubao, Quezon City	Bhup Singh Indian	Sales Representative
SHIVALIKA TRADING CORP. Plaza 9 Cristina St., North Fairview, Quezon City	Sukhdev Singh Indonesian	Assistant Sales Manager
SHIVALIKA TRADING CORP. 1404 R. Calzo Abad St., cor. J. De Leon, Mandaluyong City	Sukhdeep Singh Whitehead Indian	Purchasing Officer

If you have any information/opposition to the above mentioned applications please communicate with the Regional Director.

ATTY. ALAN H. NAZARENO, CESO III
Regional Director

ERRATUM

In the announcement of Notice of Filing of Application for Alien Employment Permits published on June 19, 2012, the name of applicant for **Manpower Outsourcing Services Ltd.** should have been read as **Mr. Harish Kumar Bansal** instead of as published.

China eyes new strategic industries to spur economy

BEIJING—China will step up efforts to boost the development of seven strategic emerging industries to cushion downward pressure on the world's second-largest economy, a senior official of the country's top planning agency said on Monday.

"When the economic outlook is not good, developing strategic industries will definitely help alleviate downward pressure on the economy," said Zhang Xiaoqiang, vice chair of the National Development and Reform Commission, in an online interview published on the central government's website, www.gov.cn.

Zhang added that such emerging sectors had outpaced growth in traditional industries in recent months and could serve as a new growth engine for the economy.

"When in a crisis, in addition to helping traditional industries to weather the storm, we have to take a longer view and develop new bright spots of growth to achieve an early economic recovery," Zhang said.

China's annual economic growth cooled to 7.6 percent in April–June pace of the slowest in more than three years, confirming a downward that is now full year growth of around 8 percent for its slowest showing since 1999.

Emerging emerging industries have become a hot topic in the past year among Chinese policymakers grasping high hopes on their ability to maintain growth momentum with domestic consumption still not able to take up all the shell of an external downturn.

The seven strategic sectors, accounting for about 3 percent of GDP at the end of 2015, include energy-saving and environmental protection, next generation information technology, biotechnology, advanced equipment manufacturing, new energy, new materials and new energy vehicles.

Apart from the growth potential, Zhang also pointed out challenges including a lack of expertise and a lag in the application of new technologies to the economy.

China's State Council, the cabinet, issued guidelines in May to boost strategic industries during the 12th five-year plan period, spelling out measures ranging from higher fiscal expenditure to easier bank credit and other financing. Reuters

More focus on IT, biotechnology, advanced manufacturing

Singapore raises inflation outlook

SINGAPORE—Singapore's central bank said on Sunday full-year inflation was expected to be on the upper half of the official forecast range, indicating monetary policy may stay tight even as the economy slows.

The Monetary Authority of Singapore's (MAS) comments came as the city-state's consumer prices rose 1.3 percent from a year earlier, beating the 1.2 percent median forecast of economists polled by Reuters and exceeding May's 1 percent pace.

For the first six months of 2012, inflation averaged 1.1 percent from a year earlier. Price rises were led by accommodation, which rose 10.1 percent, and private road transport, up 7.3 percent, over the period.

The MAS and most private sector economists, however, expect the pace to moderate in the second half.

"Accommodation cost inflation, while moderating, has been stronger than expected, as leasing contracts continue to be renewed at rentals that are considerably higher," the Ministry of Trade and Industry and the MAS said in a joint statement.

"For the whole year, CPI-All Items inflation is likely to come in in the upper half of the 3.5–4.5 percent forecast range," they added.

Thorsten Gorst, an economist at ANZ Bank, said inflation at above historical levels will likely prompt MAS to maintain its course of allowing a gradual appreciation of the Singapore dollar in a slightly stronger than usual pace when it releases its next half-yearly policy statement in October.

This was despite the weak economy and stable core inflation, which was unchanged month-on-month in June following a decline of 0.1 percent in May. "Singapore's economy is in very inflation way, however, will show the long-term average of 1.9 percent," Gorst said. Reuters

AN OFFICE staff writes on a white board at the Myanmar Securities Exchange Centre in Yangon in this file photo. Prime Securities Group aims to spearhead a $300 million investment in Myanmar to build its information technology backbone for the government in partnership with major Japanese tech companies. REUTERS

Additional firepower for US SEC sought

WASHINGTON—United States Senators are planning to introduce a bipartisan bill on Monday to give the country's securities regulator the authority to seek tougher fines for alleged wrongdoing.

The bill, sponsored by Rhode Island Democrat Jack Reed and Iowa Republican Chuck Grassley, would boost the penalties that the US Securities and Exchange Commission can seek from firms and individuals accused of wrongdoing and might for any to fund the agency can ask from issuer offenders.

"If a fine is just minimal due for a Wall Street firm, that's not a deterrent," Grassley said in a statement. "A penalty should mean something."

The bill comes only months after SEC chair Mary Schapiro asked Congress to boost the agency's firepower, after a federal judge in New York tossed out two SEC settlements over paltry penalties.

On the same November day that Schapiro spelled out her legislative wishlist to Congress, US District Judge Jed Rakoff threw out the SEC's proposed $285 million settlement with Citigroup Inc., calling the monetary fine "pocket change." The sum said investors were being "short-changed."

The SEC had alleged investors lost $700 million from the bad bets, while Citigroup had pocketed five-year up $160 million in fees and profits.

The SEC is still in the process of appealing the ruling.

In 2009, the same judge also rejected a proposed settlement with Bank of America Corp. until the two parties agreed to raise the figure. Reuters

China's tight job market defies economic downturn

BEIJING—Workers living through the slowest rise of global economic growth in more than three years are in line for their jobs everywhere except in the very place investors are most concerned about—China.

Despite six straight quarters of slowing growth, there are more job vacancies in China than there have been for almost a decade, giving workers the unlikely luxury of job-hopping during a downturn.

"It's not that I am not happy in my current job, but everyone has the freedom to look for better opportunities and big pay comparison to worth it," said Ma, an artisan glassmaker earning a unrelated jobs hit in north Beijing.

"I'm not that worried until my job right now, but my ideal income[s] pay after taxes is 20,000 yuan [about $3,100]," he said, declining to give his full name.

Skilled staff are in close supply as the world's second largest economy has moved up the industrial value chain.

And even more fundamentally the country is trending through the demographic shift wrought by the government's decades-old one-child policy.

During the 2008/09 economic downturn, firms in the mainland let go staff, only to end up paying more to rehire when the economy rebounded sharply reducing profits.

Learning from that lesson, firms this time are opting to cut hours rather than jobs.

While this means things could turn quickly worse if China's export and output dip deeper, evidence from policies in Beijing and Shanghai suggests employers were looking for fresh windows of opportunity rather than hunkering down for the battle.

He was typical of over a dozen workers Reuters interviewed at the two cities—looking to quit unsupporting or tiring jobs in favour of better prospects and the likelihood of more money.

Among the unemployed people at the fairs, most had just left school and had stumbled for work for less than two months.

But the chill from the economic slowdown, or thought job prospects could be threatened, a perception backed up by data showing China's urban jobless rate has remained solidly down 1 for seven consecutive quarters...assuming there are more vacancies than there are people to fill them.

"If you are very picky about the company and the pay, it's not hard to find a job," said Arthur Zhou, a recent business graduate attending a job fair in Shanghai.

"I hope I can find a job in the next two weeks, all the better if the pay is above 2,500 yuan [a month]."

Official data shows Chinese average annual wages in 2011 were 42,452 yuan in state-owned firms, 24,556 yuan in the private sector, 38,061 yuan in Beijing and 52,555 yuan in Shanghai. The government has lowered minimum wages should grow by an average of at least 13 percent in the five years to 2015.

With home prices nationwide still hovering close to record levels...down just 3.4 percent from all-time high in Beijing and Shanghai, private sector data shows—workers say they cannot compromise on pay. Reuters

GE gets $17B in orders at airshow

FARNBOROUGH—Orders for engines and services from GE and its joint venture CFM International at the 2012 Farnborough Airshow reached almost $17.5 billion.

"The results from this year's show are proof that GE Aviation and CFM International invest in the right technology paths with our engine programs and service offerings," said Lorenzo Zayas, president and chief executive officer of GE Capital Aviation Services (Gecas). "Despite today's economic environment, airlines are looking for current, more fuel-efficient aircraft."

Highlights from the 2012 Farnborough Airshow include:

- United Continental Holdings announced a firm order for 100 advanced Leap-1B-powered Boeing 737 MAX airplanes and ordered 50 additional LEAP-1B-powered Boeing Next Generation 737-900ER aircraft. The combined value of the engine orders, along with a long-term services agreement, is approximately $3 billion at list price.
- Gecas announced commitments for 75 Leap-1B-powered Boeing 737 MAX aircraft, in addition to an additional 25 GEnx-1B-powered Boeing Next Generation 737 aircraft. The firm and commitments are valued at $2.4 billion list price.
- Airbelin ordered the 100th engine to power its fleet of 33 Boeing 737-8 December. The airline also signed a 12-year On-Point GE solutions agreement for these Gen engines. The engine and on-point solutions agreement is valued at more than $1.2 billion over the life of the contract.
- Jet Airways signed a 10-year OnPoint GE solution agreement to include its CFM-56-7 engines that will power nine additional Airbus A320 aircraft that the carrier will begin introducing later this year. An agreement to extend at $1.5 million over the life of agreement.
- IFG Airways signed a 12-year On-Point GE solutions services agreement for its GE90-115B engines that will power its seven Boeing 777-300ER aircraft ordered in March. The contract is valued at about $100 million over the life of agreement.
- The Export-Import Bank of China purchased 15 GE-120B engines to power its 11 new Lockheed Martin-assembled P-16 Block 50 aircraft.
- GE Aviation and Lockheed Martin announced a multi-million dollar agreement for the communications, navigation and air traffic management (cns/atm) for the C-130J aircraft in the Block 8.1 configuration.
- Southwest Airlines signed a 10-year On-Point GE solutions agreement with GE Aviation for its 75 Boeing 737-800 Next Gen aircraft. The OnPoint agreement is valued at more than $1 billion over the life of the agreement.

No winners seen in race for economic growth medals

LONDON—"Swim. Higher. Stronger" is the motto of the Olympics opening in London on Friday. "Slower, Lower, Weaker" would be a better description of the economic performance of many of the countries competing in the games.

None of the big names will look worthy of a place on the podium if forecasts for a raft of data due this week from the euro zone, the United States and Britain prove accurate.

Even China, the long-standing growth champion, is trotting and puffing.

And for all the growth hormone injected in the form of cheap central bank money, the global economy is likely to be missing on the spot for some time yet given fears that the US would fall off a fiscal cliff, the softer road to China and, above all, the debilitating euro zone crisis.

July's advance surveys of purchasing managers in the 17 euro zone single currency area, due on Tuesday are expected to produce readings well beneath the boom-bust mark of 50, signalling recession. At best, the experts will show both manufacturing and services are in bone-rattling.

Non-other important early glimpses of how the third-quarter is shaping up, Germany's IFO business climate and Belgium's leading indicator, are scheduled for Wednesday and are forecast to show a modest deterioration.

Thanks to the economic outlook and to the euro zone sovereign situation are stacked on the downside, and we see a significant probability of a rate cut by the ECB within the next three months," said Riccardo Barbieri, chief European economist at Mizuho in London.

The headwinds blowing in from Europe will help peg second-quarter US gross domestic product growth to a crawl back from 1.8 percent from 1.9 percent in the first three months of the year, economists believe. The data will be released on Friday.

Britain, which has the euro zone as its main trading partner, is doing much the same. Figures on Wednesday are projected to show that the economy shrank by 0.2 percent in the April–June period. That would be the third straight quarter of contraction.

The International Monetary Fund, in cutting its forecasts last week for the global and euro zone economies, lambasted policymakers for debating over the crisis gripping the single currency.

In unusually direct language, the fund demanded an "unequivocal commitment" to the euro from member governments and urged the European Central Bank to conduct "decisive" purchases of sovereign bonds to tackle the region's troubles.

Beijing, the economy powering ahead at the fastest rate in three years, has also been pressing for decisive action. Europe is China's biggest export market. Reuters

A H&M outlet pass a woman wearing the mask print at a bank in Hong Kong on Monday.

BUSINESS

Lopez-led EDC junks two exploration projects in Chile

By Amy R. Remo

ENERGY Development Corp. (EDC), the country's biggest producer of geothermal energy, has dropped two exploration projects in Chile, after initial assessments showed that existing resources were not viable for power production.

The Lopez affiliate, however, said it would still pursue its planned international expansion. The company said it would push through with its two geothermal exploration projects in Peru, while the corporate vehicle that would undertake these projects now in the process of incorporation.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange yesterday, EDC said it had deployed only this year a full team of geothermal scientists to conduct the initial geo-scientific surveys of the Calerias and Lirquoi projects in Chile. These two geothermal projects are covered by EDC's joint venture agreement with Sur Andes Ltd. The results of these geo-scientific surveys showed the areas' resources were not enough to support power production.

EDC said the decision to drop the Chile projects would not have material effects on EDC's existing operations and financial position.

"We exercised our right to withdraw after we assessed that the sites are not commercially viable. We continue to work on our two sites in Chile as well as look for others to acquire. At these early stages of exploration, it is typical that not all sites explored are commercially feasible," EDC president Richard B. Tantoco said in a text message.

EDC investor relations manager Eisdivy S. Recio added that the company still had three concession areas in Chile that would be pursued.

"Also, we have a business development team in Chile looking for already-vetted prospects available for possible joint venture or even acquisition. The same team will handle the development of business opportunities in the other Latin American countries," Recio said.

Earlier this year, the Chilean Ministry of Energy confirmed the awarding of the Navarra, San Rafael and Ilama geothermal exploration concession areas in Chile to EDC for exploration and development.

For its Peru prospects, EDC will handle the exploration and development of the Chocopaya and Quellopuchera concession areas.

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Gov't sees further decline in debt-to-GDP ratio this year

By Michelle V. Ramos

THE PHILIPPINE government's debt-to-gross domestic product ratio, an indicator of a country's creditworthiness, is expected to drop further this year and hit the international benchmark for investment grade of just 40 percent.

"It is almost certain that the 40 percent will be hit this year," Deputy National Treasurer Edmundo Abendaño told reporters yesterday.

The government's debt-to-GDP ratio hit 50 percent in 2011. The ratio has been declining steadily from 84 percent in 2004, when the country was said to be on the brink of a fiscal crisis.

Abendaño said administrative reforms that enhanced collection of taxes and other revenues, and the prudent management of liabilities had helped trim the debt-to-GDP ratio.

Slashing a 40-percent debt-to-GDP ratio is one of the objectives of the government's fiscal managers. It is in line with the country's goal of getting an investment-grade credit rating.

Analysts said most countries that enjoy investment-grade had debt-to-GDP ratios of 40 percent or lower.

Abendaño said the Philippines' method of computing its debt—which included the local sinking fund (SDF)—was actually conservative.

SDF is a pool of savings by the government that is reserved for the servicing of long-term debts in case the government suffers liquidity problems by the time the debts fall due.

He said that if the SDF was excluded from the computation, the debt-to-GDP ratio would already be 40 percent by now.

"Therefore, by the time we (Philippines) declare that our debt-to-GDP ratio is already 40 percent, the figure will actually be lower," the treasury official said.

The outstanding debt of the government hit P5.15 trillion as of the end of May, data from the Bureau of the Treasury showed.

The Philippines is one to two notches below investment grade. The country's economic managers are keen on getting an investment grade for the country, believing that the upgrade will lead to a surge in job-generating foreign direct investments.

Currently, despite its sustained economic growth and improving fiscal condition, the Philippines still lags behind its neighbors in terms of US$ inflows.

The Philippines is rated one notch below investment grade by Fitch Ratings and Standard & Poor's, and two notches below the same by Moody's Investors Service.

RFM CORPORATION
RFM HOLD PHILIPPINE HOLDINGS CORPORATION

Treasury upbeat target of 40% will be hit in 2012

Power Situation Outlook
for Tuesday, 24 July 2012

	Luzon	Visayas	Mindanao
Available Capacity (MW)	8,563	1,766	1,133
System Peak (MW)	7,233	1,420	1,241
Power Reserve (MW)	1,330	288	-108

New airport in Bicol OKd

By Ana G. Roa

THE NATIONAL Economic and Development Authority (Neda) Investment Coordination Cabinet Committee has approved the construction of a new airport in Daraga, Albay.

The Neda ICC-CabCom approved the Bicol International Airport Project in a meeting on July 12, when the Cavite-Laguna Expressway Project was also given the go-ahead.

The new airport, described as a Principal Class 1 airport of international standards, will replace the Legazpi Airport, which is hampered by limitations and safety concerns.

Funding for the project, which was estimated to cost P4.799 billion, will come from the budget of the Department of Transportation and Communication (DOTC).

"The project aims to improve the safety and efficiency of aircraft operations through the construction of a new airport in Albay that meets international standards and practices, and enhance the accessibility of tourism destinations in the Bicol Region," Economic Planning Secretary Arsenio M. Balisacan said in a statement.

The project also involves the construction of landside and airside facilities, passenger and cargo terminal buildings and related facilities; installation of security and navigational aids equipment; preparation of detailed engineering design, and acquisition of land for the airport compound.

In the meantime, the ICC-CabCom in a separate meeting on July 3 approved proposed expansion of scope and cost adjustments or time validity extension of four ongoing government projects.

With the expanded project scope for the Bridge Construction Replacement Project, the total cost will increase by P4.87 billion from P1.146 billion. The project will service a supplementary loan from Deutsche Bank A.G. under a Spanish Export Credit facility.

At the same time, the implementation period of the project will be extended from January 2012 to December 2013 while the list of bridges covered under the project will be modified.

The cost of the South Panay Infrastructure Development Sibalom-Anini Roads Improvement Project will also increase to P3.91 billion, P1.197 billion, and the implementation of the project will be moved from Jan. 1, 2012 to Dec. 31, 2014.

Other approved requests include the 24-month loan validity extension for the Legazpi-Daraga Airport Development Project of the DOTC and the extension and reallocation of Support for Strategic Local Development and Investment Project (SALDIP) of Land Bank of the Philippines.

The DOTC sought for a one-year extension of the Bonsai Expo Import Bank loan and the Economic Development Cooperation Fund counterpart for the Legazpi-Daraga Airport project.

The project schedule was revised to accommodate activities for the air navigation component of the Legazpi-Daraga Airport. This component is targeted for completion in September 2013 for the airport to start operating by December of the same year.

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PLENARY SESSION II
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PLENARY SESSION III
"Leasing, Investments & Ownership of Real Estate Properties by Foreigners"
PLENARY SESSION IV
"Housing and Environmental Concerns Affecting the Real Estate Industry"
PLENARY SESSION V
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44th SM retail complex opened

THE COUNTRY'S largest shopping mall operator, SM Prime Holdings, recently opened its 44th retail complex in the Philippines in San Fernando, Pampanga.

The seven-story SM City San Fernando shopping mall has a gross floor area of 42,025 square meters (sqm). It is SM Prime's third mall in the province, after SM City Pampanga (Mexico-Guiguinto Road, Brgy. San Jose also in San Fernando) and SM City Clark (Clark Freeport), opened in November 2000 and May 2006, respectively.

SM City San Fernando has a leasable area of 23,416 sqm, 95 percent of which has already been awarded to various tenants.

"This caters to the need for another mall in Pampanga as the province has clearly surpassed even the years owing to its established agricultural economy and its now thriving tourism industry," SM Prime president Hans T. Sy said in a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange.

The mall features a unique facade, a distinctive exterior design which complies with the architectural theme of a heritage area, as mandated by the San Fernando local government.

The anchor tenants of the new mall are SM Department Store and SM Supermarket. Among the quick service restaurants located in the mall are Jollibee, Pizza Hut, and KFC.

The SM mall empire now has a total GFA of 3.2 million sqm.

By the end of this year, SM Prime will have 48 malls in the Philippines and five in China with an estimated GFA of 6.3 million sqm.

—Kevin C. Blanchar

New model seen to boost CCAC's net

CONCEPCION Cartel Airconditioning Co. (CCAC) said it was on track to meeting its target of increasing sales by 20 percent to P6.2 billion this year, given its new models and the improved economic conditions in the country.

In a briefing yesterday, CCAC chief executive officer Raul Joseph Concepcion said that in the first half alone, the company posted a 30-percent hike in its sales—although this growth was slightly lower than what the company had expected.

"We expected it to be better. The consumer-end market was disappointing as it did not grow as fast as we expected. But this was mainly due to a slowdown in consumer activity brought about by the Eurozone crisis and the Middle East tension," Concepcion explained. The commercial market accounts for 30 percent of the company's revenue, while 70 percent comes from the residential sector.

CCAC is, however, confident that the second half sales would be much higher as the economy continues to pick up, and with the

Freshfac OPENS IN ZAMBOANGA AS ITS 459TH STORE

Franchise Asia Philippines 2012 is Asia's Biggest 4-in-1 event

The best business minds and the biggest showcase of franchise investment opportunities will headline Franchise Asia Philippines (FAP) 2012, as Asia's premier 4-in1 event takes center stage on July 20 - 29 at the SMX Convention Center Manila. This was announced by the Philippine Franchise Association (PFA), the country's pioneer and largest franchise association, organizer of the event.

Co-presented by PLDT SME Nation, PLDT Alpha Enterprise and BPI Family Savings Bank, FAP2012 is Asia's biggest franchise show unfolded by its four events: the International Franchise Conference on July 23 and 26; the three-day International Franchise Expo on July 27-29; Franchise Seminars simultaneous with the Expo; and, the Certified Franchise Executive (CFE) Program on July 23 and 24 at the ADB Conference Center Makati.

PFA President Elizabeth Pardo-Orbeta reports record-breaking attendance rates as SRA holds its annual franchise show for the 28th time. "FAP2012 is the latest expression of the annual Philippine International Franchise Conference and Expo, as it builds up on last year's milestone international event Franchise Asia 2011, which gave our country, through PFA, the honor of hosting the convergence of the top leaders in the international franchise community, aside from holding a record-breaking International Franchise Conference and International Franchise Expo," Orbeta says.

Unlimited investment opportunities – from around 500 booths from 300 companies, covering all sectors at various investment levels – are expected to attract more than 50,000 visitors in the Expo. "The International Franchise Expo is a one-stop-shop which also serves as an excellent venue to network with suppliers as well as form new joint business partnerships. Through the years, we have made it to be the trendsetting benchmark in the country's trade shows, and this year we are making the event more exciting with the inclusion of a Petroleum Pavilion, which will offer opportunities in the petroleum and related business," reveals Orbeta.

Orbeta, who is also the Chairman of Wendy's Philippines, added that FAP2012, through a powerhouse team comprising the Organizing Committee, will bring together more than 30 speakers from the best minds in franchising and related industries to present the latest trends and developments in the sector.

The two-day International Conference sets the tempo as it opens the second event on July 23 and 26, offering empowering sessions from renowned experts – both from the Philippines and abroad – who will share their expertise and vast experiences on addressing some of the most challenging issues in today's business landscape, and thus provide sound business practices, practical tips and tools to help the flourishing business one ahead in today's increasingly complex and ever-changing business environment. Among the topics to be discussed in the plenary are Global Franchising Trends and Developments; Shopper Trends and Evolving Consumer

PFA BOARD OF TRUSTEES AND OFFICERS 2011 - 2013

From row, from left: Celestino Reyes, CFE (Reyes Hair International), Chair - Corporate Social Responsibility; Franklin Ee (Goldilocks), Chair - Membership Recruitment & Benefits; Jose Victor Pesayco (Philippine Seven Corporation), Chair - Internal Affairs/Ethical Standards & Good Governance; Ruben Tesoro, CFE (Pho's Restaurant), Chairman and Chair - Filipino Global Brands; Elizabeth Pardo-Orbeta, CFE (Wendy's Phils. Corp.), President and Chair - Marketing & Promotions; Saroo Lee, CFE (Metro Fine Furniture and Canadian Tourism and Hospitality Institute), Chairman Emeritus and Chair - International Relations; Bing Sibal-Limjoco, CFE (Prestige Philippines), Vice-Chairman; Atty. Leo Dominguez (Quicksilver Saver Line Office), Chair - Legal and Corporate Affairs; and, Dr. Alan Escalona, CFE (Fruit Magic), Chair - Government Relations & Advocacy.

Messages

President
Republic of the Philippines

My warmest greetings to the participants of Franchise Asia Philippines 2012.

Success in the global economy is marked by the ability to address the demands of the market as one. The Philippine franchise sector has come this point, exhibited dynamism and commitment to service, extending the

rich as one of the key drivers of economic development. I thus extend my gratitude to the Philippine Franchise Association for continuing to strengthen this global 3-in-1 through gatherings such as this that we showcase the advancements in our local franchise industry, build strategic partnerships and encourage more investments. All these redound to our national agenda of creating more jobs, thus our countrymen may be empowered to fulfill their aspirations and provide a better life for their loved ones.

May this event also highlight the nation's dynamics that make the Filipino countrymen's wit, fun and memorable, the breathtaking scenery, the rich mixed-race celebration, and the warmth, hospitality, and pleasant disposition of our people.

The Philippines is now experiencing a different phase of economic growth, one that other countries including, build strategic partnerships and encourage more investments. All these redound to our national agenda of creating more jobs, thus our countrymen may be empowered to fulfill their aspirations and provide a better life for their loved ones.

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Benigno S. Aquino III
President

Vice President
Republic of the Philippines

Warm greetings to the Philippine Franchise Association and congratulations on holding the Franchise Asia Philippines 2012.

Franchising is one of the promising drivers of entrepreneurship. More and more Filipinos are enticed to venture into business, thus bringing about economic development through investments gained and jobs created for the good of our Kabayanan.

I commend the Philippine Franchise Association for setting up this venue for the demonstration of opportunities for our entrepreneurs, hopefully in this they find the industry category and encouraging exhibitors and other sectors concerned for the businesses.

It is with pleasure that I welcome everyone to the Franchise Asia Philippines 2012. I trust that this Expo will bring all its participants fruitful success and to serve as a way to contribute to nation-building.

Mabuhay kayo!

Jejomar C. Binay
Vice President

Department of Trade and Industry

I congratulate the Philippine Franchise Association (PFA) for its collaborative effort in this event with the holding of its 2012 Annual International Franchise Conference and Expo - Franchise Asia Philippines 2012 on the 24-28 July 2012 at the SMX Convention Center Manila.

Indeed, no little can't-touch progress and development in the Philippine franchising sector during the past few decades. Through these years, PFA a federation dedicated

have been instrumental in the sector's steady growth. PFA organized international conferences have provided the venue to present a wide range of investment opportunities for aspiring entrepreneurs and have gathered renowned experts who have helped in building and enhancing the capabilities of the Philippine franchising sector.

We now seek great interest the sector's Incubation Center to Emerging Concepts (ICEC) which annually features emerging franchises and highly franchisable concepts. Such exposure indeed provides upcoming franchisors the needed exchange to develop their market awareness and franchise ability. This summer the advocacy of PFA is consistent to the DTI's commitment to SME development which is crucial to national economic growth. I wish the PFA more opportunities in serving the country's SME as a large aspiring entrepreneurs to consider franchising as a robust market journey to entrepreneurship.

On our part, the Department of Trade & Industry (DTI) is continually committed to creating investor-friendly policies that will promote and encourage growth especially for small business.

May Franchise Asia Philippines 2012 again showcase all participants, exhibitors and visitors alike to success.

Mabuhay!

Gregory L. Domingo
Secretary

Chairman Emeritus

It was exactly forty years ago when the Philippines had its first franchise done, which, at the time, was just a sole store of a bigger retail chain. Such was the humble beginnings of the Philippine Franchise Association's (PFA) annual international conference and expo, which has now become - as it has been for many years - the biggest franchise show in Asia. Today, Franchise Asia Philippines 2012 - the latest expression of PFA's annual franchise show - is poised to set new standards in overseas trade shows.

But what is most meaningful for me is that through these yearly franchise shows, PFA has done its mission to elevate franchising as a tool to make obtainable affordable, accessible millions of jobs, which through these years has produced 1,400 franchise systems, 150,000 franchise outlets and more than 1,000,000 jobs.

Similarly, the past twenty years has also opened more opportunities for an ever growing number of Philippine franchisors to become global brands: their obtaining franchisees, major exports for the country. Our international franchise shows have also given us the opportunity to shine in the global arena as there have presented the Philippines as an attractive investment destination by promoting the Philippines as the franchise gateway to Asia and the region's frontline hub.

Taking on here just the foundations for the mushrooming of social enterprises through social franchising and PFA's franchise ideas can be instrumental in the promotion of the use of franchising as a tool for social development and transformation.

These are some able to the factors we remain committed to the highest standards of the Association - which is to be a prime mover of the local development of the PFA some people. So to no hold Franchise Asia Philippines 2012, and as we redouble our efforts to make Philippine franchising a greater heights, let us be mindful that we are all doing this for love of country. This is the only way we can make our world something and accepted.

Welcome to Franchise Asia Philippines 2012! Mabuhay ngayong kabal!

Antonio T. Ng, CFE
Chairman Emeritus, PFA
Chairman, Canadian Tourism and Hospitality Institute
President, C.A.C. BOX Gallery

Chairman

The Philippine franchising sector continues to be a mainstay of growth in our country's economy with 1,100 franchise systems creating 150,000 franchise outlets and employing more than a million Filipinos. A vital component to the enhancement of the franchise sector is the annual franchise show - Franchise Asia Philippines 2012 - which is now celebrating its 20th year.

Franchise Asia Philippines 2012 is owned by Philippine International Franchise Conferences and Expos is the most important capability building and expo location for franchise owners in the Philippines. Throughout the past two decades, the said event has brought in the top franchise players in the world's most global franchise base and has presented the Philippines to an attractive destination - and a gateway to the franchise gateway to Asia.

Franchise Asia Philippines 2012 (Franchise Asia Philippines 2012) is an exciting Philippine franchise - event (FAPE) - to go international. The global aspirations of Philippine franchisors recently got a major push with the signing of President Benigno Aquino III's the country's accession to the Madrid Protocol, further enhancing the international protection of Philippine brands. Moreover, the recent FAPE took among the first business groups which supported the Intellectual Property of the Philippines (IPOPHIL) in its campaign for the country's accession to the said agreement.

What this is certainly a welcome development, it is also well for all of us in the Philippine franchising sector to level up to meet the challenges in global franchising. It is high time that we think global and act global.

Adventure in raising the bar and through the building of Franchise Asia Philippines 2012, PFA is committed to bring to game-changing strategies and game-new opportunities for all of us in the franchise sector. More importantly Franchise Asia Philippines 2012 will continue to be a tool to create thousands of businesses and millions of jobs for the greater good of the Filipino nation.

May we all have a rewarding Franchise Asia Philippines 2012!

Mabuhay!

Rodolfo C. Ocampo, CFE
President, PFA
Proprietor/ Mac's Restaurant
Holder, Burger King Philippines

Vice Chairman

Today, the Philippine Franchise Association are tasked with great pride and honor as a result we are rewarded with great challenges.

Year after year of staging the Philippine International Franchise Conference and Expo (PIFCE), we at PFA always strive to achieve excellence in order to bring our country's franchise industry to greater heights. Our goal with Franchise Asia 2012, as with the previous years, is to continue to provide a platform where franchisors can network and build partnerships, franchisees can source out opportunities, and franchisees can learn from experts and meet different investors. As we create new possibilities with the opening of Franchise Asia Philippines 2012, PFA welcomes you once more to take part in this event and take this chance, and through our collective action, we will greatly support the impact of franchising on our journey to progress.

Welcome and Mabuhay!

Bing Ubial-Limpoco, CFE
Vice Chairman, PFA
CEO, Francorp Phils.

President

On behalf of the PFA Board of Trustees and Officers, I am delighted to welcome you to Asia's premiere franchise event - Franchise Asia Philippines 2012!

The Philippine Franchise Association has reached a defining moment in its history. PFA remains the lead agency in developing programs in the Philippines as a catalyst for the continued growth of the entire Philippine franchising sector. During the past years, we launched several landmark programs that have helped in the development of the industry and in the creation of opportunities for entrepreneurs. Our programs of strengthening the Philippines' position as the "Center for Franchise Development in Asia", and at the same time catalyst are one means of promoting franchising as a means to create enterprises and generate jobs.

As we believe that a thriving business environment is dependent on a strong and vibrant franchise sector, PFA is dedicated to providing opportunities to its members and all the rest in the sector, ensuring that new dental patients exist, not only for businesses in Kuwait, but also help them grow and evolve, ready for global competition.

To this end, PFA is again proud to invite you to explore all that Franchise Asia Philippines 2012 has to offer! As we consider you equal partners in achieving PFA's vision, we - joined by the FAPE2012 Organizing Committee - are leaving no stones unturned to make FAPE2012 your path for unlimited opportunities and continued success.

Mga Franchisee Asia Philippines 2012 ka: the breakthrough event for all of us!

Eduardo Ma-Ocbia, CFE
President, PFA
Chairman, Wendy's Phils.

FRANCHISE ASIA PHILIPPINES 2012 INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

TIMOSAYAMY

FITERMAC

ESCALONA

Howell Choker

Franchise Asia Philippines 2012 builds on the achievements of last year's highly successful Franchise Asia 2011, which saw the gathering to the country of global franchise leaders.

To validate and strengthen these achievements, this year's Franchise Asia Philippines 2012 is again said as it has developed as enhancing the Philippine franchise sector. This year's conference boasts of a stellar cast of experts from various fields - franchising, capital markets, franchising, marketing, IT and more - both local and from all over the world. This year's expo continues to be the biggest one-stop shop of franchise and other business opportunities and the fastest, most exciting with the presence of the Metro Franchise Pavilion which is a pioneering concept in the country.

Indeed Franchise Asia Philippines 2012 continues to be the biggest franchise show in Asia and remains the most important and most anticipated trade show in the country.

On this note, we would like to thank our partners in government and private sectors who have supported us in efforts to present the Philippines as an attractive franchise investment destination.

Likewise, our heartfelt gratitude to our partner companies who have supported us through all these years and have been instrumental in the phenomenal growth of franchising in the country. Your continued support is what will ensure that we will make Franchise Asia Philippines 2012 a most successful event, our clients expect nothing less.

Franchising more fun in the Philippines through Franchise Asia Philippines 2012!

Jose Maganyan, Jr., CFE
Howell's Choker, FAPE2012
CEO, Citizen Corps/
Rotary Center

Jose Victor Paterno
Howell's Co-Chair for International Affairs, FAPE2012
President, PBZ Servicorp Co-Ltd.

Fr. Ben Gaerlan
Howell's Co-Chair for Technical Affairs, FAPE2012
President, Food Magic

Conference and Expo Chair

It is a great honor to welcome all of you to Franchise Asia Philippines 2012!

The Philippine Franchise Association and the FAPE2012 Organizing Committee are pleased to welcome you to the country's premiere franchising event with open arms and a lot of enthusiasm. Ten years ago, PFA, through its annual franchise events, has delivered valued experiences and significant rewards to the people attending the show.

This year, we expect FAPE2012 to be the primary source of great opportunities in franchising as we present all the participants a means to be successful through a more productive and cost-effective franchise show. This remarkable leap of great strides in this year's International Franchise Conference will surely lead PFA's committed efforts in promoting the highest level of competence as our invited experts share with you breakthrough strategies in embracing growth. And as we want to continue more Filipinos entrepreneurs, FAPE2012's International Franchise Expo promises to be even more relevant with unlimited choices of investment options, while increasing more exposure with the addition of the franchise-for-school institute selection.

Without doubt, FAPE2012 stands to be our area as PFA tells our readers greater franchising flagship of Asia's finest franchise event.

Enjoy the Franchise Asia Philippines experience!

Ernesto Ang
Chairman Emeritus, Conference and Exposition
Vice President, Unilab Phils.

Agnes D. Yang
Co-Chair, FAPE2012 Organizing Committee
Director, Jollibee Foods Corporation

FRANCHISE ASIA PHILIPPINES 2011 OVERALL COMMITTEE CHAIRS
From left: Jose Victor Paterno (Philippine Seven Corp., 7-Eleven), Overall Co-chair for International Relations/Franchisor Liaison; Atty. Wendy Lu, Marketing and Promotions Chair; Dr. Alex Bocobo, CFE (Potato Corner), Overall Co-chair for Technical; Freddie Go (Bo Kho), International Franchise Conference Chair; Jose Magsaysay, Jr., CFE (Coco Curry, Potato Corner), Overall Chairman; and Kenneth Yang (McDonald's Philippines), International Franchise Expo Chair.

Asia Pacific Franchise Confederation

Acting on behalf of the delegates from other countries in ASEAN, and Asia Pacific Franchise Confederation (APFC), I would like to extend my heartfelt congratulations to the Franchise Asia Philippines 2011 Organizing Committee for the successful opening of the 20th Philippines International Franchise Conference and Expo. This event, which has been widely anticipated by local and foreign franchisors, will no doubt be supported by franchisees and franchisors participating at the Franchise Asia Philippines 2011.

It is always good, with this continuing rising and fall economic conditions, to explore business collaborations. Franchising is one of the best business concepts and is rather more appropriate, I am confident that these conferences and exhibitions will produce encouraging results.

I also extend my best wishes to the delegates and visitors to Asia Pacific in getting the benefits of knowledge and information shared at Franchise Asia Philippines 2011, highlighting the ability of franchising to generate wealth for the country and enable small businesses to grow and provide employment.

The Asia Pacific Franchise Confederation congratulates the Philippines' franchising community for promoting franchising as a business alternative and noteworthy investment opportunity, aiding the promotion and development of the country's economy by its franchising activities.

Once again, we wish the Franchise Asia Philippines 2011 all the best as we support its endeavors which we also share.

Thank you.

ABDUL Rashid Abdullah
Chairman of Malaysian Franchise Association (MFA)
Secretary to Asia Pacific Franchise Confederation

711 FOR 7-ELEVEN

World-leading convenience store chain 7-Eleven now heads to 711 to continue serving its vast roaming via franchised outlet located in SM Manhattan/Fairway. In addition to the store's enviable grab-and-go food and selection of offerings, the newly opened outlet which is operated by SCTB Manhattan Fairway Inc., represents the Manila-based franchisee's commitment to the concept's "Store of the Future" energy efficient and efficient design and food dining as part of its value-added shopping convenience. In photo during opening ceremonies are (L-R) 711 Manhattan Manager James Chua-Kanjan, SMC General Manager Lourdes Jane Cortez, Sonia Mercado, Franchisee Maria Angela Capito, SMC General Manager Rose Nono, PSC Franchise/Operation Manager Melvin Elera, PSC Franchise/Operation Manager Celina Pimentel Pateño, 7-Eleven Philippines Senior Corp. (PSC). The conference brochure of 7-Eleven chain, including advancements and offered flexible franchise opportunity systems that include applying for a People Mart Store Franchise open corner 7-Eleven chain via Existing Store Franchise Takeover or existing convenience store franchisee, or through chain's Convenience conversion establishment business to convert into a 7-Eleven franchise. To date, 7-Eleven chain's flexible convenience store outlet in the country and considerable achieved remarkable growth in its network of stores and expansion plans. For more details on 7-Eleven's franchise opportunity offerings, call (02) 7706888, (02) 8820000 or (02) 411-1000 or email franchising@7-eleven.com.ph or visit us on the web at 7-eleven.com.ph.

Franchise Asia Philippines 2012 International Conference Committee Chairs

From left: Federico Homma, CFE (Yedic Sales) - Speakers; Siu Ping Pun, CFE (PR Gaz Haus); Speakers; Liz Dorio, CFE (BeBlocks) - Program; Franklin Go (BeBlocks) - International Conference Chair; Rebecca Bunal, CFE (KJ Drug) - Breakout Track Sessions; Pridee Hamoda, CFE (CPE Ana Alamo) - Breakout Track Sessions; and, Francis Glenn Yu, CFE (Seoul Phils.) - Program.

Franchise Asia Philippines 2012 International Expo Convention Chairs

From left: Francis Medina, CFE (7-Eleven) - Allied Services/Suppliers/Business Opportunities; Ver T. Rosas (Chowking Phils. Inc.) - Allied Services/Supplier/Business Opportunities; Butch Sotoya (McDonald's Phils.) - International & Foreign Franchises; Jose Alberto Arellano (Sun Higod Foods, Inc) - National Established Franchises; Sam Gregory Lim (Bliss Pet Portfolio) - Involvement Awareness; Virgilio Espeleta, CFE (Pancar Franchise Corp.) - Best of VSMHN (Regional); Kenneth Tang (McDonald's Phils.) - International Franchise Expo Chair; Dr. Emma Guerrero (Bioessence) - Best of VSMHN (Regional); Richard Sanz (Bibingkinitan) - Emerging Franchises; Raymund Chaochay, CFE (Noble House) - Food Concepts; and, Raul Perez (LJ Franchise Sales & Management) - Educational Franchise Seminars.

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- Pangasinan
- La Union
- Ilocos Region
- Cagayan Valley
- Isabela
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- Bicol Region
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Aquabest to join PFA's FAP (Franchise Asia Philippines) 2012

Aquabest, the country's leading water refilling franchise is proud to announce its support and participation at this upcoming Franchise Asia PH 2012 to be organized by the Philippine Franchise Association (PFA).

This company is a long time member of PFA and has a nationwide network of around 200 stores and is considered among the leading players in the water franchising industry. This year this company is Franchise Asia's bronze sponsor. Apart from its usual booth, fun and games and an appearance by Aquabest endorser Gretchen Ho, this company will also be launching its newest franchise concept Refillables.

EGINEST CEO, Carmen Tanyapo "In our company we believe that a person must not be a charge of his or her own destiny, but we also recognize the role we have in empowering. That is why we are offering a new franchise concept that offer added value, uniqueness, backed up by the strength and and tested excellence of our flagship brand Aquabest. With Refillables, our franchisees can become less of a gamble and more of a stable and sure the way to successful business."

At the heart of Refillables is the Aquabest 3 in 1 Combination which is a machine designed by the supplier to add on a concept to create a complete franchise package. The Combination machine integrates three tried, tested, and successful concepts into one. Bundled in the combination are EGINEST's Aquabest, Lean Hydrest, and Crystal Ice brands. Aquabest is the company's flagship brand, which is shifting to offer structured water. Leanhydrest is the company's carbonated franchise, while Crystal Ice is the oxygenated alkaline water brand.

Now, the company has brought its bottled water down its success by giving franchisees businesses from these add-on businesses for, their increase their service offerings. All these concepts are designed to complement each other and will address the needs of the communities they are located in. The combination of all these concepts would allow franchisees to benefit from the synergies of these complimentary concepts.

Also for this Expo is a 24hr pet care house-keeping service aimed at puppies and cat for the go professionals. Best Mobile Groomers is the first car wash delivery service that offers car wash or detailing. Accompanied by an on-the-door service aimed at serving clients who would like to have alterations done to their clothes while having their cleaned. The best thing about these add on businesses is they generate added value and income for the franchisee without additional layers of manpower investments. This allows the franchisees to maximize and get the most out of their existing resources.

With Franchise Asia SEGMENT "Aspire to raise the bar for the franchising industry in terms of innovation, value, and sustainability. Unstoppable will pioneer a new value- and social-sense driven approach in franchising that will benefit the industry and the public as well."

Franchise Asia Philippines (FAP) 2012 will be held from July 25 – 28 at the SMX Convention Center Manila.

See us at Asia's Biggest International Franchise Expo

27~29 July 2012 | SMX Convention Center, Manila, Philippines

Register on-line and get 2 Expo tickets for FREE! www.franchiseasiaphl2012.com.ph

FRANCHISE ASIA PHILIPPINES 2012

7-ELEVEN · AQUABEST · bench/ · FlavaTwister · Bioessence · CANADIAN · Crystal Clear · FH Folded Shoes · Francorp · trish magic · goldilocks · Julie's · K2 DRUG · MINT · Mister Donut · MONTEREY Mandaue · ORYSPA · PR Gaz · Rapidé · SMOKEY'S · THE GENERICS PHARMACY · WORLD WRAPS · Wraps · SEAOIL

EXPO VISITORS' GUIDELINES

- Visitors below 13 years old shall not be allowed entry to the exhibition halls.
- Identity check shall be strictly monitored by appropriate Expo personnel. Visitors without visibly shown pre-registered badge shall be prohibited from the exhibition areas.
- Wear proper attire - Business casual. Wearing of sleeveless, short-cut, see-through attire are strictly prohibited. No exposed midriff.
- Wear the visitors badge inside the exhibition hall at all times.

EXHIBITION DATES and HOURS

July 27, 2012 10:00 am – 7:00 pm
July 28, 2012 10:00 am – 7:00 pm
July 29, 2012 10:00 am – 6:00 pm

PHILIPPINE FRANCHISE ASSOCIATION

Franchise Asia Philippines...

From page B6.1

Behavior; Translating your Brand Personality into your Store Look; Using Innovative Solutions to Grow and Manage Your Business; "The Customer is King" – Using This Simple Principle to Improve Business Performance; Managing Multiple Brands: Benefits and Advantages; Managing and Profiling Even-Sighted and Mobile Marketing, and, many more.

Adding excitement to the Conference are the Breakout Sessions where thought-provoking discussions and lively exchange of ideas transpire within industry peers. Among the topics featured are Running a Family Business; Location, Location, Location; Putting Premium to Your Brand; Bring Out the Best in Your People; Managing Profitability; Going International; Access to Financing; Supply Management; and, Exploring Career Opportunities in Franchising.

On July 27 to 29, the International Franchise Expo will showcase the best on limited business opportunities ranging from established and successful brands – both local and international – to new and promising franchise concepts covering every sector at various investment levels. The biggest franchise showcase in Asia with almost 10,000 square meters in exhibit area, covering all four halls of the SMX Convention Center, the Expo – aside from a wide range of local and international franchise brands – is also highlighted by special areas of interest, among them the Franchisees Pavilion, Institutions and Emerging Concepts Area, International Suppliers and Allied Services, Thinking Pinoy: The Best of the Philippines, and many more.

The Expo also provides another learning venue through the Franchise Seminars. Three seminars will be conducted to serve as a forum for business matching between franchisors and franchisees – "Master Franchising 101: International Franchise Opportunity" for local investors who want to be a master franchisee, an area developer or a partner of a foreign brand on July 27; and, the How to Franchise your Business? for micro, small or medium enterprise owners who want to expand their business through franchising, and "How to Invest in the Right Franchise" for would-be franchisees, both on July 28 and 29.

Another highlight of the annual show is the Certified Franchise Executive (CFE) Program on July 25 and 26 at the SM Conference Center Makati. The CFE Program is a mini-MBA professional development program designed to enhance the knowledge and skills of franchise professionals as the first to be accredited by the Institute of Certified Franchise Executives (ICFE) to offer the program outside the US. PFA has already produced 48 Filipino CFE graduates, and currently has over 30 enrollees from the country and nearby Asian neighbors, further boosting the Philippines' esteemed professional standing in the international franchise community.

PAFO2012 is supported by the World Franchise Council and the Asia Pacific Franchise Confederation, with Cullen, Philippine Seven Corp. (7-Eleven), Magnolia Chicken Station, Hungry Juan, Mommy Quezilpha, Coca-Cola, Mang Inasal, Max's Restaurant, Max's Group Bakery, Goldilocks Bakeshop, Jollibee Philippines, Pizza Corner, Tex 101, Pepsi Cola, Pancorp Philippines, Aqua Deer, The Generics Pharmacy, PR Gas Haus, Allied Botanic, Meralco, Bibingkahan, Libas Pride Liempo, Crystal Clear, HP (Hewlett-Packard Phils. Corp.), Corporate Hotel, Ayala Malls, Robinson's Malls, SM Supermalls, Watsons, AMC, Entrepreneur Philippines, the Philippine Star, Philippine Daily Inquirer, Manila Bulletin, Business Mirror, Bisnap News, RJ 100, 6BBB Corp, Mindpro Systems, AM Goods Prints and Go Negosyo.

To know more about the event, visit www.franchiseasiaph2012.com.ph and register on-line for special admission rates. Other details can be obtained from the PFA Secretariat at tel. nos. (02) 6870365 to 67, 09178202731, or e-mail pfa@pfa.org.ph. For more information on the Expo, call the exhibit management team's Global Link MP Events at (02) 750-8588 or e-mail franchise@glink.officelog.com

World Franchise Council

The World Franchise Council (WFC) is an association of 43 National Franchise Associations, whose purpose is to encourage international understanding and cooperation in the promotion and promotion of franchising worldwide. The WFC was formed in 1994 and it continues to grow. Governed under bylaws representatives of over 43 franchise organizations today meet the members of each nation's franchise associations and in turn the economics and wellbeing of the people involved in franchising at the local and national level.

The important role that the franchise business model can play in the economic development of countries, as well as the opportunity to become leaders of world's heritage, has led to the list of agenda items of the last meeting of the World Franchise Council in Mexico City. Franchising, with its multiplier effect on terms of employment, livelihood and job generation, has the power to produce the needed sustainable jobs that can provide effective future for hundreds of millions of individuals all over the world. With more than 10,000 franchise systems generating at least 1,000,000 business outlets and worldwide, franchising is a proven business strategy worldwide that can have an enormous positive impact on the global economy.

The Philippine Franchise Association organizer event promises to be an exceptional opportunity to network from these Asia Philippines 2012 and hear useful many speakers, visit the exhibition, attend seminars and make the most of the educational programs presented available.

David Ramos
Chairman

Executive Director

Franchise Associations of New Zealand
World Franchise Council General Secretariat 2010 - 2012

Entrepreneurs listen to Meralco Senior AVP Jose Ramon Reyes as he stresses the need for early engagement through Meralco SME Partners.

Meralco provides franchise businesses a good head start

Realizing how nurturing franchises is tied with the grander scheme of building a better Philippines, Meralco is dedicating considerable resources to give franchisees a leg up in their business journey.

Through Meralco SME Partners, a team brought together to support and boost small and medium enterprises (SMEs), the country's biggest distribution utility is giving aspiring entrepreneurs, including franchise holders, a head start in their business by making electricity available in no time.

Jose Ramon A. Reyes, Meralco Senior AVP and Head of SME Business Group, says Meralco SME Partners enlists the help of its customers and suppliers to get electricity for businesses faster.

"Ang goal namin is to enable business franchisees and other SMEs have their electricity in time for opening of their outlets or the start of their business operations. No need for contacts within Meralco para mapabilis ang application," he notes.

Electricity is a critical part of operations. That is why it will benefit business franchisees to forge an early engagement with the power utility – perhaps, more so for existing ones planning to expand.

Advanced consultations will result in better electrical connection since it will allow Meralco to prepare necessary electrical facilities ahead of time and trouble the franchisees to start their business as schedule. Moreover, coordination will allow Meralco to custom-fit value-added services such as energy management services and alternative pricing options, and recommend accredited contractors who can guarantee a high level of work benchmarked by the utility.

One of the companies which benefited from closely working with Meralco SME Partners is tube ice maker, Mr. Freeze, a pioneer local SME that was recognized during the first Meralco Customer Awards last February.

Mr. Freeze president and CEO Gerald Santos acknowledges how Meralco helped him expand his business to full capacity when the company introduced him to a scheme that allows him to shift operations to off-peak hours.

> *"Ang goal namin is to enable business franchisees and other SMEs have their electricity in time for opening of their outlets or the start of their business operations. No need for contacts within Meralco para mapabilis ang application."*
>
> **Jose Ramon Reyes**
> **Senior AVP, Meralco**

Under one such scheme called Peak Off-Peak Rates, Santos was able to decrease his operating expenses, increase his profitability and eventually set up new ice plants.

On July 27, during the Franchise Asia Philippines 2012 Conference at SMX Convention Center, Meralco SME Partners will be promoting the Peak Off-Peak Rates scheme and other ingenious ways to ensure that profitability is viable and perpetually sustainable for franchise businesses.

A series of seminars on "Meralco Strategies & Innovations for SMEs" will be held on July 28 and 29 at the same event.

Aside from offering various activities designed to provide perspectives on the latest trends and developments in franchising, the event also features a gamut of franchising prospects and opportunities.

Those entrepreneurs who are thinking of starting their own business franchise or expanding their existing one would do well to attend this event.

For more information on how Meralco can jumpstart your franchise and offer value-added services, please contact Meralco SME Partners at 1622-5765 or email smep@meralco.com.ph.

Meralco helps Mr. Freeze president Gerald Santos achieve his business goals with Peak Off-Peak Rates.

IFA Franchising

International Franchise Association

We are very proud to congratulate the Philippine Franchise Association (PFA), the winner and the only international-recognized franchise organization in the Philippines, to obtain another breakthrough event: Franchise Asia Philippines 2012 in Manila. This international event is a landmark convergence of various franchise leaders from the Philippines, East Asia and across the globe.

IFA, as the voluntary self-regulating governing body for franchising in the Philippines, USA the leading franchise and largest franchise association with members ranging from micro to global, both homegrown and international, involved in food, retail, services and many other franchise categories.

Franchising is a model that empowers individuals with entrepreneurial opportunities and small business ownership. IFA is committed to the promotion of franchising as a tool for economic development and career building, through enterprise development and job creation. IFA, looks for the sustained growth of the franchising sector by delivering high-quality programs and facilitating business development and best practices.

The IFA congratulates PFA for bringing together leaders of the finance, franchise and business communities to showcase franchise development to create the opportunities empower ingenuity needs. With IFA's leadership, this effort is growing day by day for the betterment of humanity worldwide.

Thank you again for your critical role in this effort and we look forward to continuing to work with you in the days ahead.

Sincerely,

Stephen J. Caldeira, CFE
President & CEO, International Franchise Association

Franchise Asia Philippines 2012 Marketing and Promotions Chairs

From left: Mai Antonio (BPI Family Savings Bank) - Expo Visitors Generation; Jeanbeth Limon, CFE (The Generics Pharmacy) - Conference Attendance Generation; Elizabeth Pardo-Zeluna, CFE (Wendy's), Marketing and Promotion Chair; Judy Guevara, CPE (Jollibee Foods Corp.; Mission Burger) - Conference Attendance Generation; and, Jerome Tagata (Mister Donut) - Expo Visitors Generation

CELEBRATING 10 YEARS OF FRUITFUL HARVEST

Fruitas Group of Companies has indeed come a long way from just one store at SM Manila in 2002. From just serving fresh fruit shakes and juices at Fruitas, the company has expanded to include Bebe Ni Fruitas, Juice Ave, Bake Cave, Black Pearl, House of Desserts, Tea-rrific!, Piping Sweet, TheMangoHaus, Cobbles, Fruitas Ice Candy, Yes Yes Yo!, Cereal Chiller and Friends Fries.

To thank its loyal customers for their patronage, Fruitas Group held an exciting, nationwide Gadget Raffle promotion of which the grand winner won the Apple iPhone 4S.

The company recently opened its 459th store in Jaenes de Zamboanga. The goal is to end the year 2012 with at least 500 stores.

www.fruitasgroup.com

PHILIPPINE FRANCHISE ASSOCIATION

Visit our booth during the Franchise Asia Philippines International Franchise Expo on July 27-29, 2012 at the SMX Convention Center

LIFESTYLE Wellness

VINA MORALES doing the plank on the exercise ball for an overall body workout and to improve alignment. Above, Morales with Meg Maxie in Atlantis Productions' "Rock of Ages" where, playing a stripper, she showed off her super-toned body

How Vina got her washboard abs back–at home

The actress relied on a trainer and a portable workout system to prepare for her role as a stripper in 'Rock of Ages'

By Margo C. Enriquez

SINGER-ACTRESS Vina Morales auditioned for "Rock of Ages," hoping to get a lead role. When she was cast as Sherrie, the female protagonist-waitress-stripper, Vina gave her trainer, Kenna Mabilog, less than three months to get her washboard abs back.

Reducing body-fat percentage through seamless cardiovascular workouts and core training is the way to chiseled abs. Vina's program consisted of bodyweight exercises with the aid of portable exercise equipments.

After giving birth to Sienna, now three years old, Vina regained her figure. Although she did step aerobic, they were sole aerobics, like playing a young mother, which didn't require much in the body department.

However, in Atlantis Productions's "Rock of Ages," her first ever theater role, Vina was cast longer. There were still some postnatal fats covering her stomach muscles.

"My role was a stripper. If you're chubby, it won't look nice. I had to prepare. I was careful with my food intake...mostly brown rice, salad, egg and sweet potato. But if you don't complement the diet with a strong workout, the weight loss won't be fast," she said.

Vina has tried all kinds of activities such as yoga, dancing, badminton and running. "I get bored easily," she said.

Her body type is mesomorphic, a naturally athletic build. Although she is blessed with a sculpted musculature, she needs to bulk up easily when working with free weights.

"I wanted to get ripped and concentrate on core training, but I didn't want any more muscles on my arms," said the singer-actress.

Vina and her trainer would work out in the singer's home. Mabilog said that one doesn't need the treadmill or a stationary bike and five weights to get in shape. For the transit home gym, the trainer would bring portable fitness equipment—a stepper, a sticky mat, an exercise ball and a TRX suspension kit.

Plyometrics

Mabilog explained that Vina's two-hour workout focused on plyometrics and core training.

Plyometric exercises are explosive, high-intensity training drills used to build up strength and speed such as hops, jumps

NEXT PAGE: C2

How Vina got her washboard abs back—at home

From page C1

and bounding movements. They thicken the ligaments and tendons to prepare the body for greater intensity and more ballistic movements.

Vina's plyometric exercises consist of variations of burpees, or squat thrusts, and scap-pendulums.

Mabug was impressed with her celebrity client. Vina was well-conditioned and showed high levels of leg and body strength.

"Sobrang laksa siya," said Mabug, adding that her client never complained or hesitated.

The step exercise involves pacing up and down a riser. The up-and-down moves fire up the hips, gluteal muscles and hamstrings, while the side movements engage the inner and outer thighs.

The Journal of Medicine and Science in Sports and Exercise says that step aerobics boosts oxygen use and burns calories, thereby promoting weight loss.

Certain choreographed exercises improve coordination. When the individual pays ahead instead of looking down, the manner is improved and body awareness increases.

"She wanted to build up endurance for her singing and acting," said Mabug.

To strengthen the core, Mabug provided suspended workout and exercises on the stability ball.

The stability ball, or Swiss ball, is a soft, made, inflated, pneumatic exercise sphere. Unlike working out on a solid horizontal surface, such as a bench or a floor, the body has to work harder to maintain balance on the instability of the ball. Hence, it uses more muscles than get stronger in the session.

The exercise ball targets core muscles—the abdomen, back and pelvis.

Suspension training, or suspend work-outs, are exercises using body weight as resistance while pushing on nylon straps attached to an overhead spot.

The resistance is regulated by manipulating the weight or changing the angle of the body from the anchor point. By increasing instability in the strength exercises, the smallest firm up not only the major muscle groups, but also the core and other muscles that stabilize the big muscles.

CLOCKWISE from top left: The step aerobics improves cardiovascular endurance; the plyo or the TRX strengthens Vina's abs; personal trainer Karen Mabug challenges Vina by making her do crunches on the stability ball; side leg lifts to train the obliques muscles; working out the upper back and arms.

PHOTOS BY RYAN LIM AND KAREN MABUG

User-friendly

"I find this difficult because you have to balance while engaging the core and the arms," said Vina.

Mabug is a certified trainer for TRX, a brand that is popular for its mobile, easy and user-friendly setup, and the exercises can be adjusted to any age and fitness level.

"Because of the intense training, the fans were burned so her hidden muscles came out," said Mabug.

Vina said she didn't weigh or measure herself. She estimated that she lost 10 lb and is a trim 33.5-0-36 for 5'8" frame.

"Korea pushes me. If I work out by myself in the gym, I get dark," she said. "It's also different when you set a time limit. Think of it as motivational tool."

Vina added that accomplishing Mabug's program gave her the confidence to perform well.

What readers can learn from Vina is that there's no excuse to avoid exercise. There's the convenience of home fitness, which one can easily work into a busy schedule.

Working out at home provides Vina private work and support from the family. "I'd get red after exercising for two hours. My mom would search me and she'd laugh and slap. I'd tell her, 'Mom, papawis ang labas mo.' Korea would enjoy my sweat."

TORY'S Arena

Get your own gym for yearlong health

DUMMIES is core and the days of frolicking under the sun are done. Unless you're pretty hardcore when it comes to the outdoors, morning bike rides and night runs have pretty much seen its last scorching ball.

The best answer to this is to resolve in a personal gym at home. The luxury of having exercise equipment at home means putting a long-term premium on personal health and the fitness of the entire family.

The country's leading chain of sports equipment, Toby's Sports, gives fitness hopefuls the chance to build their own exercise facility within the confines of their own home. "Our No. 1 priority is to get people to adopt an active lifestyle, and to move at home," explains Toby Claudio, president of Toby's Sports.

For people who get pumped on intense cardiovascular workouts, a good treadmill is a must. If you think a simple and sturdy exercise would do the trick, the Armstrong Manual Treadmill (RP 4500 at any eco-friendly treadmill that doesn't run on electricity. The Proform 385E (RP 9500 Motorized Treadmill, on the other hand, packs a durable 1.0HP motor and is ideal for serious home walkers and runners. No chore in the market for top-of-the-line machines, the Sole F63 Motorized Treadmill surely fits the bill.

Stationary bikes offer the same intense cardiovascular workout minus the impact. The Proform PRO 3000 Magnetic Cycle offers the benefits of a fitness-country bike ride.

Resistance training is as important as cardiovascular workouts. It strengthens and tones muscle groups by lifting weights. The Proform Home Gym Studio 3 packs all the essential gym performance workouts in one weight stack machine.

For those looking for nontraditional exercise methods, new fitness trends that have proven to be effective are available. The kettlebell, for example, reinforces basic training through a dynamic workout that requires functional, whole-body fitness.

Another rendezvous fitness trend that's making swell anywhere is the TRX Suspension Training. Requiring the specific use of a highly portable performance training tool, the TRX Suspension Trainer, the workout utilizes gravity and the user's body weight to leverage its product literally hundreds of exercises.

Aside from performance equipment, it's also a good idea to round up on exercise accessories so those who complete the whole home gym setup.

Inspired by the hit television series, The Biggest Loser Pinoy, for offers a complete workout, all in one carry bag. The are includes Pull Exercises for toning, Chest Expander for strengthening, Jumping Rope for building stamina and stillness, and Hand Grip for improving grip and forearm strength.

An exercise facility at home is something every family should have. Aside from setting up on gym membership costs, it creates a fit and safer atmosphere where the family can bond and enjoy in a healthy and fun way (to date) hesitate to ask in-store fitness experts about setting up your own home gym.

All fitness accessories and equipment mentioned above are on sale, get up to 25 percent off at all Toby's Sports outlets nationwide. Promo runs until July 29. *For more information, visit any Toby's Sports branches nationwide. Visit www.tobysports.com, like them on Facebook (facebook.com/tobysports) and follow on Twitter (twitter.com/tobysports).*

THE BIGGEST Loser Pinoy Mike and Isabelle Ann Pili fitness equipment

Running enthusiasts find love on the run

DURING the recess line United 2, a runner proposed marriage in his morning sweetheart at the finish line.

That was not the first time it happened. In fact, Run United has become a venue for wedding proposals.

Run United 3 (RU 3) on March 4 at the SM Mall of Asia grounds was a good day for running for over 15,000 runners, who ran in their hearts' content that day. But 5-km runner 32-year old Jendrick Go, it was a great day to propose to his 25-year-old girlfriend Martina Abiera.

He asked the eleven and applause of fellow runners, Jendrick knelt down on one knee and posed the question to Martina, who was visibly surprised by the turn of events. The moment was captured by camerawoman covering Run United and featured on the Run United Facebook account.

According to Jendrick, it took him a month to plan the proposal. Nobody knew about it except a close buddy of his. But it is well documented. He has a photo album on his Facebook account labeled Pre-Proposal, Proposal, Post-Proposal with pictures of Martina the night before and the day of the proposal itself.

"I'd always told Martina that I'd do it. I propose in public, but she didn't believe me. So this was really surprised when I finally did it," said Jendrick, a native from Bulacan, Manila.

He said he approached the staff of Run United, Gerlie Hendin and Bambo, organizers of Run United, and asked them if they could help him surprise Martina with a wedding proposal. Of course, the Run United people were more than happy to oblige. So the emcee just made some announcements and then handed the microphone to Jendrick. The rest is recorded for posterity in another photo album on Jendrick's Facebook account aptly labeled "One of my dreams came true today."

Jendrick was also surprised to know many runners that day, including journalists, took photos and videos of him proposing to Martina. Blogger even blogged about the romantic moment.

One of them wrote: "Bonus moment! As we running were doing proposed any engagement on going race event. Mabuti na lang at nakapaghanda ng isang life-changing event. Ang sarap sa lagang nagmahal ng isang tumakbo ka din... Ang sarap ng feeling mo!" Another wedding proposal in a race event. It's good I finished early and I felt instead the life-changing event. It really feels good to love someone who loves you in return."

AT RUN UNITED 3, Jendrick Go proposed to Martina Abiera at the end of their 5-km run.

MARK: Brian Pili sinks on his knees as he proposes to his longtime girlfriend during the second leg of Run United held at the SM Mall of Asia grounds. Below, some 15,000 runners join in for the race categories of Run United.

How could a grade school pupil be seen in two places at the same time?

I RECEIVED the following e-mail from Janelle Sharon, a grade 7 student at Mirriam College, about a strange event that happened to her.

"I was absent last Friday (June because I had a slight fever. But a lot of people, including the librarians, saw me in school. My classmates said I were said 'Hi!' and greeted their 'Happy Birthday!'

"During the first Friday Mass, they saw me standing in line. But during homeroom, I was gone. Although I left my things in school, they said (their words!) them in the morning. Then my things disappeared when I had placed them the day before.

"Some handwritten also saw me in the OJT. Then the clinic called at home asking if I had gone to school. But I wasn't there. I was at home."

As you can see, Janelle merely related what happened to her without asking me any questions. Neither did she hint at any fear or apprehension. It was as if she was just telling a story to someone. But I guess she wants some explanation about what happened.

This phenomenon is technically called "bilocation," or being in two places at the same time. But even as rare as some people may think. I have some stories similar cases happening to other individuals both here and abroad.

Bilocation happens when our astral body (sometimes called our etheric double) leaves our physical body, goes to another place and is seen there by other people. In most cases of bilocation, the astral counterpart, seen by others does not respond when greeted. In a few cases, the astral body responds, as if really there.

Natural occurrence

The astral body is also known as the "Double Body," because it goes wherever that person desires to be. In this case, Janelle probably wanted to be in school but could not because she was sick. So her astral body was the one that went to school.

This reminds me of a case when I was working in a large rubber shoe manufacturing company in the early '80s. One Monday morning, Vivian, an audit clerk, was brought by the plant manager to me, crying uncontrollably. She related that on the previous Saturday, she was absent from work because she wasn't feeling well. She just stayed at home.

But on that day she was seen in the factory by no less than six employees, including her supervisor. One co-employee even said Vivian had asked her about a certain chemical compound they were using there.

When Vivian heard all this Monday morning after she reported for work, she panicked and started crying. She thought it meant she was going to die. She only stopped crying after I explained to her that what happened to her was perfectly natural and it did not mean she was about to die.

I explained to her about the astral body and how bilocation takes place. She was relieved after that and was able to work without a problem.

Documented cases

The most well known documented cases of bilocation concerned the famous Italian Capuchin monk and stigmatist Padre Pio, who only a few years ago was canonized by the Catholic Church. When he was still alive he was often seen in two places, and at times in three places, at the same time.

One of the recorded stories happened during World War II. The plane of a British pilot was shot over Italy. As the crippled plane was falling, the pilot saw a monk flying in front of him, took hold of the plane's nose and gently landed it safely on Earth, thereby saving his life.

When the pilot related to his colleagues what happened to him, he was told there was a Capuchin monastery nearby and suggested they go there and inquire. When the British pilot and his companions were inside the monastery, they saw monks silently marching toward the chapel. When the pilot saw Padre Pio, he exclaimed he was the monk who guided his plane safely back to earth. But Padre Pio never left the monastery that whole day.

Bilocation should not be confused with "teleportation." In bilocation, a person is seen in two places at the same time. In teleportation, the person physically disappears or vanishes in one place and appears in another place simultaneously. There are also a number of fully documented cases of teleportation in the annals of parapsychology and psychical research, but that's another story.

MORE: The next Basic ISIP & Initiation Dimension workshop will be on July 28-29, at Rm. 308 Prince Plaza 1, Legaspi St., Quezon, Bel. Makati. For details, call 8157245, 8159896, 0920-9818962, 0920-9818963, e-mail primeforces@yahoo.com, visit www.jimmyblances.com

INNER AWAKENING

Jaime T. Licanan

Suffering from GERD, Diabetes and Heart Disease?

Here are a few good reasons to start taking Aloe Cure
In the Journal of Vascular Diseases in 1985:

Studying the safety of Aloe Vera, there has been no indication of any side effects or adverse events related to its use. The long term ingestion of Aloe was monitored on 3,000 individuals for a period of five years by Dr. Agarwal.

1. A significant reduction was noted in blood cholesterol (approximately 15%) and triglycerides (approximately 30%).
2. There was an increase in HDL (liquid cholesterol) and significant lowering of LDL (hard cholesterol).
3. There was a reduction in frequency of angina attacks during the study period and patients had their drug dosages gradually reduced over time.
4. Patients who were also diabetic showed the most benefit from the trial with 82 % of diabetics cured.
5. 88% of the patients overall were practically cured at the end of the study with their ECGs returning to normal.

Heartburn and Acid Reflux (GERD)
Sometimes the production of hydrochloric acid is excessive that it supersedes enough to dissolve an eliminate spasm in just 30 minutes. Due made to consume aloe heart burn, acid reflux and other ailments.

Here is how it works:

The Organic Aloe Juice counteracts
AloeCure® contains a natural buffer made by nature from water and. A buffer is a substance that regulates acidity, so neutralizes the acid in the stomach. This is a major difference to the way

Already well improved your digestive function as compared with the use of an alkaline neutralizer.
Aloe Vera is also rich in polysaccharides, this "wonder" compound that gently coats the throat, esophagus and stomach, stopping instant relief to cells scratched with excess acid.
Prolonged use of antacids can have consequences. Side effects are dependent of calcium leading to osteoporosis, alkalosis and gas bloating.
AloeCure® offers a safe, natural, drug-free approach to those stomach and related discomforts and its heart diseases and ulcerous.

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Aug. 12 fun run offers . . .

From page C1

3rd GYM at Wellness Alliance, Ortigas

- **Zumba-ba-Hull & Kiss Cty Bar** (08 F-4111100, 7708540)—a place that caters to both men and women, offering salt, hair and foot care, body massages, waxing, eyelash extensions and lipsalon.
- **360 GYM** (tel. 8917-6000000), the country's first supreme fitness facility, with 20 exercise stations that allow for total body workouts and cardio activities can burn strength- and burn an average of 600 calories in just 20 minutes every day.
- **Dermatyme** (tel. 8910-8080102, 8884813), a physician-supervised skin and slimming center that offers comprehensive line of cosmetic, aesthetic and dermatological services.
- **Pelvaro Muscle Studio** (tel. 8917-7309121), the country's first and only pole dedicated exclusively to, equipped with professional grade X-Poles. Pelvaro has developed its own curriculum that caters to all levels, from first-timer to advanced students.
- **Yoga Studio** (tel. 897-8000901)—Yoga+ caters special yoga flowing to provide traction and prevent injuries. Classes offered include Hot Yoga (Hot & with 10 postures and twice with 26 postures), Vinyasa, Ant Vinyasa and Ashtanga classes.
- **Yellow Hole Bath Free Ribbon** caters with mirrors developed and purposed under the supervision of a nutritionist, giving maximum to feel bad about filling up after a good workout.

Among those present at the ribbon-cutting ceremony which opened the Wellness Alliance Complex were Carlos Dikit, chair of Consul Sovereignwid, and engineer Joe San Andres. Socialites Ivonne Santiago, Tessa Prieto-Valdes and stylist Liz Uy, Rep. Romeo Momo and wife Shirlan, former Sen. Nikki Coseteng and celebrity mom Ory Magsaysay also graced the occasion.

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GARFIELD

BY JIM DAVIS

A. GIPPIN

BY BOI HIBORA

PUGAD BABOY

BY PHIL LANDA

DICK TRACY

BY JOE STATON AND MIKE CLARK

LOVE-MOTS

BY ELIZABETH HONGALD

BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT

RIKO MACHINE

BY MAKI ABIERA

SEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON

HUTTS

BY PATRICK MCDONNELL

SHERMAN'S LAGOON

BY JIM TOOMEY

DUSTIN

BY STEVE KELLEY AND JEFF PARKER

TULDOS

BY FRANCO COLL

HOROSCOPE

CONCEPTIS SU BOKU

HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9. Tips and programs at www.sudoku.com

Concepción Sudoku

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Difficulty Level: ★★

Answers to previous puzzle:

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS

1 Made amends
6 Ramona's singer
10 Kid's dance
14 Ring ceremony
15 Alaska
16 Big Circle
17 Lab measure
18 Chess maneuver
19 Cuba
20 Cheer
21 Lost in war
22 Dandy
23 Mother, Chinese
26 Ocean
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It's 'a lifetime of learning' when you're sailing on a hobie cat

By Anne B. Jacobsen

IT'S JUST you, a 20-knot wind whipping your body and the open sea. Like a rollercoaster, the sailboat bounces up and down the two-metre waves. You give it a firm grip to keep from falling into the sea, and shift your weight to keep the sailboat from flipping over. A moment's hesitation could mean the sea swallowing you whole.

With your adrenaline shooting up at an all-time high and your brain processing so much information, you don't have time to think about shoulder and other potentially deadly forms of sea life. Or do you?

"Whenever you're in the water, dudes will always come to mind," said Jun Villanueva, smiling. Villanueva, hobie cat competition sailing has been sailing for 13 years. Although he has never encountered a shark, he becomes animated when he talks about sightings of pilot whales, dolphins, manta rays and sea turtles.

Sailing, a relatively young sport in the country, he said, is slowly attracting more Filipinos. In the competitive level, the annual Philippine Hobie Challenge now has 50 percent Filipinos and 50 percent international competitors.

Sailing is an incredibly strenuous sport. It demands that your entire body be in good shape, and it's not, it will be on other worlds. With just a hammock and a boat attached to the boat to keep you from steering too far when you fall—and everybody falls off, just like every boat flips over—you'll need strong arms and legs and a clean gut to keep your balance across a constantly shift.

Arch rivals whose shores (opposed to coastal the sail) are usually frozen, too, especially when up against a strong wind.

Powerful upper body to your subordinate all the way down to your toes, sailing will give you a complete body workout.

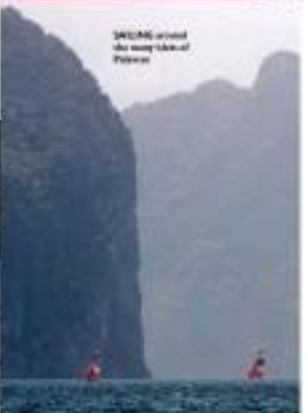
Sailing for 18 hours

"If you get a lot of wind, you're exhausted after an hour, boring right when you expect to be here for three hours, depending on the conditions. During competitions, there was a time when we were sailing for 18-11 hours," recalled Villanueva.

This year, the BlackBerry 1200 Philippine Hobie Challenge held at El Nido, Palawan, had 50 hotch attracted world-class

JUN VILLANUEVA (left) wants his crew, the Filipino athlete Nestor Soriano, "their own sunrise" at the first place trophy in Leg 1 of this year's Philippine Hobie Challenge in Palawan.

It's a serious sport and a full-body workout, especially when you're trying not to flip over during a race like the long-distance Philippine Hobie Challenge


SAILING around the many islets of Palawan

A SPORT only for the brave few

PRETTY soon, it will just be you and the open sea.

athletes for the first time, such as World Champions Mitch Booth and Nicolas Hill. While there are many hobie challengers in the world, none is as unique as the Philippines'.

The Philippine Hobie Challenge is a long-distance adventure race, with sailors sailing between islands and natural rock formations. Participants sail island to island on a five-leg course. International competitors usually follow the mainland, triangle monsoons.

In February, men from the course will kick off at the Mexdevel Islands, Pangasinan, and end at Antonio Cove, Subic. Although it's not yet official. But, he said Villanueva, for experienced interest in coming back.

Villanueva said his desire to know more becoming sailor in the first leg this year. But it, who was probably need to a struggle

HELPING HAND: Villanueva (left) with sailing partner Ryan Lee Ablaza, pour partner must be able to rescue you

course, finally made it to the Top 5. He did, however, win the surrounding legs and still emerged overall champion of the Philippine Hobie Challenge.

This year, Villanueva and pilots are already underway to get the youth interested in sailing. Youth camps and training courses will be set up, and will be formally launched at SOL Manila's Global Cup, The Port, in September.

Anyone can sail, he said, as long as there's genuine interest and work hard on it to see more especially if the wind is strong.

Scary speed

The hobie is designed for racing. It is a very light sailboat with a huge sail. It will ride fast in perfect conditions. Here that? Maybe around 40 km an hour. That's not a lot when you're riding a car. But if you're on a motorcycle, without a seatbelt, a 40 km per hour ride will give you a different experience. Better yet, try imagining yourself on a bicycle going downhill, hands off the bicycle, and you reach that speed—a little breathless, isn't it?

"It is scary, especially on your first encounter with the speed. You look back and you see the boat chopped, and all you see is white, and the closest person, sailing is about two miles away. It's disconcerting. You want to hold on to that boat," Villanueva said.

But take all the fear away, and sailing is one of the best adrenaline you'll probably experience, especially in the Philippines. Villanueva said he has been to so many islands in the country that he didn't even know existed, islands that are undeveloped. Taking some of the remote islands they've been to are part of their outreach programs, and they donate school materials whenever they can.

There are so many things you discover about your country when you're sailing, he said, and you learn so much about yourself, too. In the end, he said, you just learn to roll with the punches.

Sailing is also a serious sport, so proper training is required. "Sailing is a lifetime of learning," Villanueva said. "There's the physics aspect... what's the effect of wind on my sail, the navigation aspect... how do I get from the island to that island. You have to know how to look at the nautical chart, understand nautical charts, the effects of tide and current...and so much more."

For more info, visit www.hobiechallenge.ph or www.philsailing.org.

Aug. 12 fun run offers new features, running app

REGINA RUN 2012 will kick on Aug. 12 at the Gil Puyat Avenue grounds. Presented by Regina Tiles, the event offers a new category, some prizes and new features.

Returning runners may participate in a Spider Tracking Gear in the Regina Run Outrun Yourself App, which can be downloaded for free via the Regina Tiles Facebook page. The app will help runners set a target time for the category to be a recommendation or running alerted and motivational statements on their smartphone, which they can listen to while running. During the actual run, the app can also be used to help runners set their pace.

Participants can choose from among three race categories: 5K, 21K Solo and for charity going over the 21K Relay. The solo category is the signal to require 5K and 10K runners to take their best by taking part in the more challenging 21K race, where a team of two runners will race relay the three by finish the 21K distance.

Apart from cash prizes and medals for the top finishers, consumer-ware tile lay chairs will also be awarded to finishers who manage to nail the second-fastest timing for the challenge. To qualify, all runners must cross the finish line 30 minutes after gun time for 10 km, and all 21K participants need to finish within two hours at 7 a.m.

For Regina Run 2012, members will be tracked in different locations so runners can go pick it should need one or bottles, sponges and other train

REGINA brand manager Anne Sumulla (center) with representatives from JCI Manila, a beneficiary of Regina Run 2012: Vic Gamboa, Albert Reyes, Marcelo Co and Richard Co (from L)

JANA Abrera and Eli Tony Tan

REGINA Run 2012 happens on Aug. 12 at SM Mall of Asia grounds.

UNILEVER marketing manager for skin and eyecare Cindy Mabunay-Mudajan, Sumulla, Regina product brand manager Mara Linares

They gives runners a reason and more discussion race route, new and increasing millions of Regina Run.

For more for the top three finishers in the 21K Solo include P1,000 for first, P5,000 second and P4,000 for third, while the podium finishers in the 10 K category go home with P3,000, P2,000 and P1,000 for first, second and third placers, respectively.

Registration is ongoing until July 29 at Regina stores in Manila in Global City and Katipunan, and Toby's in Ortigas, in Marikina and Makati at Ayala. Online registration is also accepted at runregina.com. Interested runners can email runregina@yahoo.com or contact the race hotline at +63917-3477700 (Globe), +63928-7178104 (Smart) or +632-8876784.

Wellness Alliance opens in Ortigas business center

Wellness Alliance is designed as a one-stop center for one's wellness needs. Located at the 2nd floor of Unit 2100(B), at F. Ortigas Road (formerly Emerald Ave.), Wellness Alliance houses the following:

Turn to C6

MediCard
Powered by Intellicare
Take Charge, Doc!
HEALTHY RECIPE IV

Ways to assess how fit and strong we are

INSIDE OUT
Cory Quirino

ODE CAN never be too healthy. In fact, by today's standards, good health may be one of the results, if it is our intention to look and feel better through the years.

One of the easiest ways to determine your actual physical strength is to go up a flight of stairs. That explains why, in many office buildings, there is often a sign that says "If you're going to the 2nd floor, take the stairs. It's good for your health."

I agree 100 percent. However, make that three flights instead of one, even if just the mere 30 steps up can give your blood circulation a good jolt. However, ladies, a precaution – better wear flat shoes or sneakers. Using high heels while climbing the stairs can create your inner back and legs.

Here's how to test yourself: Climb the first flight. (Heavy exercise). Feeling good? Want more? Then take the second and third. Now this is a perfect warm up—if it has not taken the wind out of you!

However, should you find yourself gasping and completely out of breath, stop. This means your body is not used to exercise and is actually "telling" to tell you simply this—"Get me back into shape!"

15-minute routine

Try this next. However your high heels or office shoes. Go barefoot or wear athletic shoes.

Choose a spot. Walk where you are standing. Bring knees and arms up each time you lift a leg. Do this for 5 minutes. Then, jog for five minutes without leaving your spot. And without lifting your feet from the floor, but only your heels. Wiggle your hips.

This could be challenging but it is actually easy. It will give you a good workout.

When you look at the minute after this 15-minute routine, you will see more clearly. If, by any reason, climbing the stairs causes you difficulty to breathing, see your doctor immediately, as heart disease can be ruled out. But also check if your testosterone and cortisol hormone levels are depleted. Regaining the normal young adult levels of these hormones will certainly bring back the stamina you have lost.

Balanced IQ-EQ

It is widely believed and accepted that women have greater emotional intuition than men. And it's a fact—visibly because women have it in their DNA. It is part of our genetic blueprint.

Thus, with the capacity and natural inclination to feel and nurture also comes the ability to handle emotional stress. Women don't have to be taught how to feel. Rather, it is the man who need to hone their skills in the feelings department, given that they've been told since childhood that "men don't cry."

In truth, the best way to good health, according to experts, is to encourage synergy, men and women alike, to have a balanced IQ and EQ (emotional quotient). Ideally, this balance should begin in early childhood.

Emotional stress is connected to physical illness. In short, when you feel (much) affects your insides, too.

What you feel inside affects your insides, too

Everyone can feel emotions. We just vary in the ways of expressing it, with some more expressed than others.

Now, close your eyes and imagine a moment in your life where you felt the greatest sense of joy. Hold that thought. This is your memory for the day. Allow it to fill you once more with that feeling of contentment. And this is enough to influence your day.

Most importantly, feel-good thoughts stimulate feel-good hormones, which result in a stronger immune system.

Good posture

People literally get shorter over time. That's because bone density decreases with age. Thus the impression that people are slowly shrinking with age. However, with the proper wellness regimen of exercise, good nutrition and supplementation, we can delay this catastrophe. If you do not have a wellness plan, now would be a good time to start having one.

Consider the mess from how you carry yourself. Your internal organs have adequate space inside your body. But the moment you slump, slouch and curve your back, this will change. Your lungs compress, the air stress of this cannot can cause inefficient lung expansion, lack of oxygen, poor circulation and even headaches.

Eventually, you will have weak stomach muscles, slumped shoulders and a small chest.

Imagine what a big difference posture can make.

So put a smile on your face, and sit up straight. Or, shoulders back, chest upright, eyes fixed on the horizon. Now affirm: "I stand tall and proud!"

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In addition to CGF, VITALL syrup also contains Taurine, Lysine, Zinc and vitamins A, B1, B6, B12 and C, and is ideal for children ages two to 12 years old.

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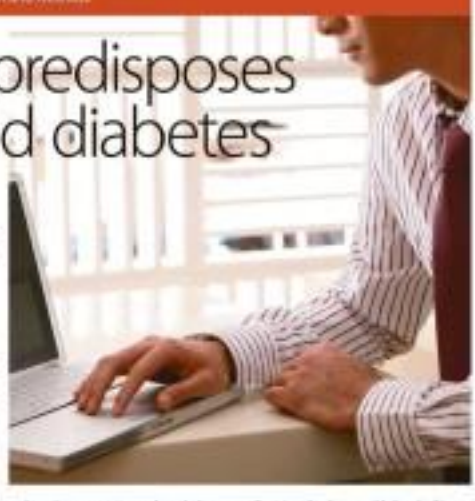
Nervous system addresses iron deficiencies, which is common among children and growing adolescents. Children who don't get enough iron for every meals, and the deficiency can affects their physical and mental growth.

Vitamin E is essential for many developmental processes, and supplementation becomes important when children are not getting enough exposure to sunlight where it is usually sourced.

VITALL is exclusively available at all Watsons stores in 300 malls nationwide. Suggested retail prices are P186 for VITALL Syrup 120mL, P295 for VITALL Syrup 250mL, and P520 for VITALL 30 capsules.

THE CENTURIA MEDICAL MAKATI
Guide to health and wellness

Erratic work shift predisposes you to obesity and diabetes



If you lack sleep or have trouble sleeping because of an erratic work shift, you may be a candidate for obesity and diabetes, according to a study published in the journal Science Translational Medicine.

The study showed that people who have been thrust into a work schedule that their body clocks were not used to made 32 percent less insulin, the hormone that controls blood sugar. Because of this, their blood rose significantly, even up to pre-diabetic levels.

"What that means is that the modern condition of excess work, excess pressure, no sleep – all this disruption – we can't adapt well to it metabolically. This is a maladaptive response to modern life," says researcher Orfeu M. Buxton, PhD, an associate neuroscientist in the division of sleep medicine at Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston where the study was conducted.

The night shift experience

The study involved a group of 21 fairly healthy and well-rested men and women who were all put in a controlled sleep lab for more than a month. They were initially allowed to have 10-hour sleep periods. Then for three weeks, they were allowed less than six hours of sleep in each 24-hour period and to carrying schedules, which is similar to what night shift workers experience.

Researchers conducted blood tests to measure blood sugar before and after meals as well as to measure hormones related to stress, energy regulation, and appetite. When sleep-deprived, the subjects not only had higher blood sugar, they also burned fewer calories at rest than they did when they adequately slept.

Blood sugar goes up because the body's muscles are no less sensitive to the hormone insulin. Such resistance can cause diabetes, polycystic ovary syndrome, heart disease, and even cancer. Sleep deprivation also prevented the pancreas from producing enough insulin to meet the body's energy demands.

When allowed the normal amount of sleep, the group's metabolism normalized. It is said that this study is the "strongest evidence to date that short and disrupted sleep is bad for the body's metabolism."

Advice for the Tired and Overworked: Don't Sacrifice Sleep

Charles Bae, MD, a neurologist at Cleveland Clinic in Ohio tells his patients to prioritize sleep, even if one has work at odd hours. He stressed that exercise, diet and sleep are the three pillars of health and if one is made less of a priority, all three fall apart.

"You have a ton of job demands and you're not getting a lot of sleep. That gives you less energy for exercise," he says. "Similarly, your diet changes. Not only are you hungrier and having cravings for more food, and eating more," but being tired makes it harder to resist all the junk food you're hungry for.

Buxton advises to pick a shift that isn't erratic or that quickly changes within a week. It is easier for the body to adapt to shifts that last for a month. It's also important to stay on your usual schedule "Eat during your biological day," Buxton says. "Your gut is not ready for food in the middle of the night."

When it opens its doors in 2013, Centuria Medical Makati will tackle your sleep and other health concerns through 300 outpatient clinics with doctors specializing in different fields of medicine.

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ENTERTAINMENT

Edna Emerie G. Velarde

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DID YOU KNOW...

What Vilma learned from Pokwang

Her costar in her latest film, 'The Healing,' influenced her to try out the social networking site Twitter

By Marinel R. Cruz

ACTRESS and Batangas Governor Vilma Santos, who recently admitted to personally signing up on Twitter, said the French Filipinos' treatment of shots his celebrities on the sidewalk-blogging site is to disrespectful and tacky.

"I'm not a victim, but I try to learn Twitter. I'm enjoying it but I want to be a responsible user. It's true that you should 'think before you click,'" she told reporters at a recent media gathering inside the ABS-CBN compound in Quezon City.

"I think the consumers posted about other [known personalities] are quite unfair. Some people even use foul language. This is a type of

VILMA Santos

POKWANG

disrespect in those who have worked hard to to build a name for themselves in this industry."

The governor clarified that while she found it fun and interesting to log on to Twitter daily, she was still not ready to publicize her username.

"For now, it's enough that only a few people know. Pero, dito kasi sila. Para mabantayan, hanang na," she explained. "I'm taking things one step slow. I will not exactly promote the use of Twitter, it's just that you can't fight technology. As the old saying goes, 'If you can't beat them, join them.'"

Feeling closer

Vilma revealed that it was during the latter, Pokwang and Ian Veneracion, her costars in the latest film, "The Healing," who convinced her to try out the social networking website. "They were really pestered with me. Pinagpipyestahan niyo ako. Even Direk Chito [Roño] tried to help in coaching me."

She said it was while shooting "The Healing" that she bought an iPad3 and her first iPhone. "I had no idea how they work! I used to just rely on my BlackBerry. Now I check on Twitter as often as I can—before I sleep and when I wake up. I even have time to send a direct message," she said, laughing.

"I think this activity was what made us close to each other," Vilma observed. She said her other female costars upon more of their free time inside her dressing room.

"We got to discuss a lot of things. They were

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Life imitates art for Albie Casiño

Young actor figures in a full-on bar brawl after finishing a movie with the same plot

By Marinel R. Cruz

YOUNG actor Albie Casiño found himself in an unexpected situation when, recently, life imitated art.

Casiño was beaten up by four men in the parking lot of a bar in Makati City a few days after he finished doing the movie, "The Animals." The movie is about a group of rich high school kids who get involved in sundry (for some full-on but brutal).

"The brawl happened a few days after we wrap-up," director Dino Santos told the reporters. "There are scenes in the film that resemble that incident."

Santos added: "It just goes to show that these things do happen and, for that matter, can happen to anyone."

Casiño's mother Gina Alajar said the four men who gang-up on her son are friends of Casiño's ex-girlfriend, actress Andi Eigenmann. The actress denied this.

Rich kids

"The Animals," an entry in the New Breed category of the ongoing 36th Gawad Urian Pelikula Independent Film Festival, is set in an affluent, upper middle-class village.

It chronicles a day in the life of Jake (played by Casiño), Trina (Devon Balagtas), and Alex (Patrick Sugui), who go through situations that every kid in high school find themselves in.

"All Jake wants to do is have a good time. Alex just wants to fit in, and Trina simply wants room," explained the director.

"A very vivid picture is painted of life in high school after the final bell rings, as well as a different side of the Philippines, and what is happening to its privileged children."

Film idea

He said he had the story in mind five years ago. "I organized parties when I was in high school; that was where the concept began. When I finally decided to write the full script with my childhood friend Jeff Stelton, we used real events and experiences

ALBIE Casiño

to create the story first," Santos said, adding that he and Stelton went to clubs during weekends "to observe in restricted areas."

Looking for the perfect actress to play the character Trina was tough, Santos shared. "Most the roles were your Starday-afternoon-teleserye type, she had to be young, beautiful and sexy[. One day] I had to do casting scouts. In the end we got model Dawn for the role. She was amazing in this film. She will get noticed."

Hurdle

Santos said shooting schedules proved to be the biggest hurdle in making the movie. "We had a few problems with time, since 70 percent of the scenes were at night. Fifty seconds[] in the height of summer, when the sun should are late and star very early. We only had 10-12 hours of shooting."

He continued: "We originally planned to finish shooting in five days, but we needed an extra day, which was painful to us, being the director/producer."

In terms of script development, Santos said, "Another very big hurdle was the fact that Jeff and I were juggling the script with our thesis. Jeff's thesis was actually due the same day as Cinemalaya's deadline for the final script."

He added: "I just really pressed for strength. [It was good that] my team really believed in me and their support helped me have more faith in myself."

Advice

Santos advised young filmmakers like himself: "Trust your team. Film is a collabo-

UPDATED 24

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Bossing-Pauleen like Dolphy-Zsa Zsa, they say

DOLLY WOOD
Dolly Anne Carvajal

PAULEEN Luna's Instagram post of her photo with Vic Sotto piqued my curiosity. It also elicited a lot of comments from Pau's followers.

PAULEEN Luna and Vic Sotto

Most of them said that Bossing and Pau are like Dolphy and Zsa Zsa. Since their photo is out on a social networking site, it's for public consumption. So I took the liberty of posting it in this column. Pau placed this caption to go with their pic: "Where good friends dine."

How good is good, Pau?

No network war

MJ Marfori is from TV5 and Oscar Oida is from GMA 7. But love knows no [network] war, because the two news reporters are on to make headlines together.

"We've been dating for two years," says MJ. "Good thing we cover different beats, so there's no rivalry. He does crime reports. I do entertainment and lifestyle. Comfort lang sa akin[because na] we both

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2 Dark Knight Rises
9:55am / 12:55pm / 4:00pm / 7:05pm / 10:10pm / 1:15am

3 Dark Knight Rises in 3D
10:30am / 1:30pm / 4:30pm / 7:30pm / 10:40pm

4 The Amazing Spiderman
9:00am / 11:30am / 2:00pm
Dark Knight Rises
5:05pm – 8:15pm – 11:15pm

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1 Dark Knight Rises
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2 Dark Knight Rises in 2D
1:30pm / 3:35pm / 5:30pm / 10:15pm

3 Dark Knight Rises
1:15pm / 4:40pm / 8:05pm / 11:30pm

4 The Amazing Spiderman
3:00pm / 9:00pm
Magic Mike
8:00pm / 10:10pm

5 Ice Age 4
1:00pm / 5:00pm / 9:00pm
Dark Knight Rises
7:00pm / 10:30pm

6 Dark Knight Rises in 3D
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7 Dark Knight Rises
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1 Dark Knight Rises
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2 Dark Knight Rises in 2D
10:30am – 2:00pm / 5:30pm – 9:00pm / 12:30am

3 Dark Knight Rises in 3D
9:30am – 1:00pm – 4:30pm / 8:00pm – 11:30pm

4 Dark Knight Rises
9:00am – 12:30pm – 4:00pm / 7:30pm – 11:00pm

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1: THE DARK KNIGHT RISES
2: THE DARK KNIGHT RISES
3: THE DARK KNIGHT RISES (3D)
4: THE AMAZING SPIDERMAN/MAGIC MIKE
5: ICE AGE 4
6: THE DARK KNIGHT RISES
7: ABRAHAM LINCOLN/THE DARK KNIGHT RISES

GREENBELT 5
1: ICE AGE 4
2: THE DARK KNIGHT RISES
CINTAKUL THE DARK KNIGHT RISES

GREENBELT 3
1: THE DARK KNIGHT RISES
2: THE DARK KNIGHT RISES
3: CINEMALAYA
4: ICE AGE 4/MAGIC MIKE
5: CINEMALAYA

ALABANG TOWN CENTRE
1: THE DARK KNIGHT RISES
2: THE DARK KNIGHT RISES (3D)
3: THE DARK KNIGHT RISES
4: ICE AGE 4/MAGIC MIKE
5: THE DARK KNIGHT RISES

AYALA CENTRE CEBU
1: THE DARK KNIGHT RISES (3D)
2: THE DARK KNIGHT RISES
3: THE DARK KNIGHT RISES
4: ICE AGE 4

MARIKINA
1: THE DARK KNIGHT RISES
2: THE DARK KNIGHT RISES (3D)
3: ICE AGE 4
4: THE DARK KNIGHT RISES/MAGIC MIKE

MARKET! MARKET!
1: THE DARK KNIGHT RISES (2D)
2: ICE AGE 4
3: THE AMAZING SPIDERMAN/MAGIC MIKE
4: THE DARK KNIGHT RISES
5: THE DARK KNIGHT RISES
6: THE DARK KNIGHT RISES
7: RESERVED

TRINOMA
1: CINEMALAYA
2: THE AMAZING SPIDERMAN/MAGIC MIKE
3: THE DARK KNIGHT RISES (3D)
4: THE DARK KNIGHT RISES (2D)
5: ICE AGE 4/THE DARK KNIGHT RISES
6: ABRAHAM LINCOLN/THE DARK KNIGHT RISES
7: ICE AGE 4

ABREEZA
1: THE DARK KNIGHT RISES
2: THE DARK KNIGHT RISES/MAGIC MIKE (3D)
3: THE DARK KNIGHT RISES
4: ICE AGE 4

HARBOR POINT
1: THE DARK KNIGHT RISES
2: ICE AGE 4
3: THE DARK KNIGHT RISES/MAGIC MIKE
4: THE DARK KNIGHT RISES

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Daniel Padilla reclaims top spot

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Overall

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OPM

1) Daniel Padilla, "Daniel Padilla," Star; 2) Various Artists, "Walang Hanggan (Forgedagain)," Star; 3) Various Artists, "Walang Hanggan, Vol. 2," Star; 4) Richard Poon, "The Crooner's Songbook," MCA; 5) Noel Cabangon, "Tadey Ang Bisdak," Universal; 7) Dolphy, "Standing Ni Pidol: A Lifetime Of Music and Laughter," PolyEast Records; 8) Various Artists, "Love Songs From Princess di," Star; 9) Angeline Quinto, "Pedro Ang Pangalan," Star

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Search for Dolphy's successor heats up

TOP FUNNYMAN Dolphy is gone...now, long live the new king of comedy! Or not, if we can find him!

But to, over since Dolphy fell ill some years back, producers have been looking for his stellar replacement. Early on, Vic Sotto was spotted as a possible for Prince of Comedy. After all, he had become popular, first as a member of the Tito, Vic and Joey trio and on "Eat Bulaga," done on his own as a comedy film star via his "Enteng Kabisote" franchise and on TV as the host of a number of shows like "Iyo Mhen Ti Ito Is Millionaire."

Yes, Vic is definitely a major player in the search for Dolphy's "successor." Note that he's nicknames in the biz is "Comedy"—as in "Comedy" is the short and creative control he's acquired over the years. Also please note that the Dolphy Vic is a celebrated "apprentice" of honorific mentor Eddie Romero. Coney Reyes. Pia Guanio—other comedies and superstars, the last listed on the right).

In addition, he also favors the "silent wants your deep" approach, not just in his pursuit of beauty, but also in his comedy. Like Dolphy, he goes for the point face and "dry" punching of laugh lines (in our great relief, by the way, since we're so sick and tired of many local comics who mistake energy and volume for wit.)

Yes, Vic is definitely a front runner to be the next for Dolphy's crown and throne. Which must have been why before he retired, Dolphy agreed to come with him in a comedy flick. Was he passing the torch to the next generation? That's how some people saw it, and Vic's stock in the comedy trade soar even higher after that unofficial "anointment."

Contenders

To make the search more fun and less than legal accomplish, let's have in other actual and potential comics.

Sorry, Ate Guy's discographic as are Ogie Alcasid and Michael V—nonetheless, they often perform as a tandem, which could knock their cutbut as solo players. Ha, Dolphy did also have a comedic sidekick in Pinakbet, but it was Dolphy who became king of Comedy, not Dolphy plus Pinakbet.

Thinking more impulsively now, some people say that, because some of his recent hosts have been big hits, Ai Ai de las Alas should be named Queen of Comedy. That may make some sense from a "fi. nancial" point of view, but the very idea of Dolphy being "succeeded" by Ai Ai simply doesn't reach.

Who else? The fact that Star Cinema has been associated with him like "Showtime" and "Wowbye! How jamin" definitely makes him a comer in the field of TV/film comedy. But he still has a long row to hoe before he can really measure up to Dolphy's, uh, distinction. Ditto for Eugene Domingo and the rest of the pesty gang!

Logical

"But know what we would really like to happen? That more people join us in honoring on a *junior* potential Prince of Comedy who, with the public's support, would most logically emerge as Dolphy's authentic successor because he's no other than the late comic's own son, Epi Quizon!

This is definitely not to say that Epi's only claim to succession is the fact that Dolphy is his dad. For some years now, we've been admiring the way that he has been developing as a comedic and dramatic actor. He definitely has much more going for him than just his "royal" lineage.

And he's a dead-ringer for his dad when Dolphy was young and lean, and owing to show what he could do to make people laugh.

Well, now it's high time to do that, and he could make it really big if Dolphy's many fans wonder their allegiance to him and support his being crowned. Which should be nothing less than his dad's (like his!)

Epi Quizon

Vivinvendor
Reporter
C. Pareño

VIC SOTTO

VICE Ganda

POWER PLANT CINEMA
THE DARK KNIGHT RISES – P(11)
1:10, 4:35, 7:40
ICE AGE: CONTINENTAL DRIFT (3D) – SP
1:10, 3:10, 5:10, 7:10, 9:10
THE DARK KNIGHT RISES (3D) – P(11)
1:50, 5:05, 8:20
MAGIC MIKE (2D) "THE DARK KNIGHT RISES (3D)" –
10:07 AM
6:20, 9:20
THE DARK KNIGHT RISES – P(11)
2:30, 5:45, 9:00
THE DARK KNIGHT RISES (IMAX) – P(13)
12:30, 3:45, 7:00, 10:15
HOLMES & WATSON (2012) 10:10 AM 1:30 PM 4:50 PM 8:10 PM 11:30 PM
SHANG CINEPLEX
1 THE DARK KNIGHT RISES 2D
2 THE DARK KNIGHT RISES 2D
3 ICE AGE: CONTINENTAL DRIFT
4 THE DARK KNIGHT RISES
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THE DARK KNIGHT RISES
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MOVIE SHOWTIMES

Bossing-Pauleen . . .

From page D4

Be singer-songwriter, actor, host, and now entrepreneur in Ogie Isaac all the right ingredients to keep cooking something new.

Sweet offering

The day after King of Comedy Dolphy was laid to rest, his kids had a get-together at their dad's fave hideaway, Tikoy's.

They celebrated the birthday of their brother Edwin. Then they visited dad's tomb as they stage Part 2 and brought him his well-loved Tikoy's pancit. What could be sweeter than love even after death?

Personal is better

If Cristine Reyes is really sincere in her apology to her Ate Ana Hilton, she should go see this person directly so they can work matters in private. It's funny how she's been trying to reach out to Ana via Instagram by posting comments about her sister's pictures. It's obvious media just for show. Ahh, Instagram drama!

CRISTINE Reyes

What Vilma . . .

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mostly girl talk. We cackled like, especially those of us who have gone through a lot. We also talked about love and our children," Mina said. "We got to know each other on a more personal level. We became more open, more honest to each other."

She opined that Jaime and Hayden, who are both single mothers, "don't need men to think time to be happy." She pointed out that "happiness comes when you learn to be content with what you have or possess."

Hilma, however, said she didn't ask Eats about her love life. The young actress is being romantically linked to fellow Kapamilya actor Enn Lim.

The governor admitted that she personally chose Gin to play Minerva, her character's step-daughter in this project. "In the beginning, Melissa Ilarmo, Direk Gienna Cunanan, Direk Joyce asked me whether I wanted to work with anyone in particular from the new and upcoming actors in ABS-CBN. I chose Eats," she said she first got to know her in the Kapamilya TV special they worked on a few years back.

She recalled: "She was one of the newcomers who appeared on the show. As part of their workshop, she played a scene in one of my movies, 'Bahiana Gatos.' I've not forgotten her face and name since."

Vilma explained that she found the young actress to be quite interesting. "She's new... She's fresh. It's good to be working with someone who is still so pure, so malleable, and yet so professional," Vilma said. "Also, this role is somewhat like Eats was in real life. She's a new discovery so her acting part of a love scene on camera. She will portray a very different and challenging character here."

"The finding" marks Vilma's 50th anniversary in show biz. Also in the cast are Gene Montes, Ronaldo del Rosario, Mark Gil, Joel Torre, Cris Villanueva, Dexta Ramirez, Imelda Isidro Lopez and Cris Quimado. Released under Star Cinema, the horror thriller will premiere in cinemas nationwide on July 25.

DIRECTOR Gino Santos (center) with members Brillante Mendoza (left) and Joey Reyes

Life imitates art . . .

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JOHN Wayne Woo

VANGIE Marcelo

MOVING ON!